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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

The great foreign political subject of the day is, of course, the probability, or, at least, possibility, of a war between Prussia and Austria. To all appearances, the chances of this war taking place have for the present diminished. But sooner or later it must break out, and English politicians would do well to accustom themselves to the idea of its utter inevitability. We were, all of us, so much bored by the incessant discussion of foreign political matters, of which Parliament and the press were full two or three years ago, that even now we are not quite reconciled to the necessity, which nevertheless exists, for looking the Austro-Prussian question in the face. The majority of our contemporaries, which amounts to saying the majority of our fellow-countrymen, seem to be of opinion that the dispute between Austria and Prussia arises especially and distinctively from the Schleswig-Holstein War. This, however, is fundamentally

a mistake. The true rivalry between Austria and Prussia arises from the desire of each to obtain the leadership of Germany, and the Schleswig-Holstein War is only the accidental occasion for the manifestation of this feeling. It is quite evident that Holstein can be of no use to Austria; but it was as the representative of the Germanic Confederation that Austria took possession of that province, and she cannot allow herself to be turned out without forfeiting her position in Germany. Several English newspapers have expressed their astonishment at the seeming inclination of the Germans to renew the horrors of the Seven Years' War. The fact, however, is that the causes which produced the Seven Years' War are still in existence. Northern Protestant Germany is still hostile to, and still wishes to gain territory at the expense of southern Catholic Germany; and it was the chief northern German Power that precipitated the nominally German, but in fact Prussian, war on behalf of Schleswig-Holstein. Sooner

or later Germany must form one, or at most two, great States. The great object of Prussian policy is to turn Germany into Prussia. The great object of Austria is to prevent the realisation of the Prussian designs, and to carry out, in place of them, Austrian designs of a similar character.

It may be hoped that for the present the two great German Powers will remain at peace; but there can be no doubt but that at the earliest favourable opportunity Prussia will endeavour to turn Austria out of Holstein, while Austria cannot possibly depart from Holstein at the dictation of Prussia without falling to the rank of an inferior Power. Thus, as it seems to us, the Schleswig-Holstein dispute will, in time, lead to a conflict which in the natural course of things must naturally and in any case have taken place between the leading Power of Northern and the leading Power of Southern Germany.

Although nothing is more troublesome to the ordinary



THE GREAT REFORM MEETING IN THE AMPHITHEATRE, LIVERPOOL: MR. GLADSTONE'S ADDRESS.

English reader than the consideration of foreign political questions, it ought to be remembered that out of foreign politics wars arise. Perhaps if our Ministers had studied foreign politics with a little more care before the Russian War, that war might have been avoided. Certainly, the diplomatic intervention in favour of Poland, which in the end proved so injurious to the Poles, would not have been made, or would have been made in a more judicious manner, if the true position of the Polish insurgents had been understood in England at the outset. At the present moment, if no immediate harm comes out of this German quarrel, it is quite possible that the state of affairs in Moldavia and Wallachia may lead to a disturbance of the public peace of Europe. These united provinces are for the present without a ruler, and it appears very improbable that they will be allowed to appoint a Sovereign of their own choice. Moldavia and Wallachia—or Roumania, as the two provinces have been called since their union in 1856 after the peace of Paris—are much in the position of Poland before the partition. Bucharest, the capital, is full of hostile political parties, and the most patriotic among the inhabitants seem quite convinced that, to escape from the ruinous intrigues in which these parties are engaged, the only resource is to throw the governing power into the hands of a foreign Prince—who, however, like the Prince just deposed, would be controlled by a Senate and a Chamber of Representatives. Roumania in the east of Europe will, no doubt, give as much trouble to politicians as Schleswig-Holstein has done, and still may be expected to do, in the west. If anyone thinks Roumania an unimportant country, and the settlement of Roumanian affairs an unimportant matter, let him remember that the crossing of the Pruth and the invasion of Moldavia by the Russians was the proximate cause of the Crimean War.

During the recess a number of meetings have been held in various parts of the country, as well as in London, in favour of reform. Everyone, or nearly everyone, is in favour of reform; that is to say, most persons wish to see remedied such imperfections as undoubtedly exist in our representative system. The great question, however, just now is whether it would be a beneficial measure to extend the suffrage without a redistribution of seats, and many good reformers are conscientiously of opinion that such a measure would be imperfect, and in several respects injurious. Reform is one thing, mere change another; and the bill proposed by Earl Russell and Mr. Gladstone, according to the views of a section of the Liberal party, is not entitled, in the best sense of the word, to be called a "reform" bill at all. One fact in reference to the Government measure has been made known within the last few days by Mr. Gladstone, who has stated positively that the Ministry means to stand or fall by it. Accordingly, as Liberals generally do not wish to imperil the position of the Government, the probability is that individual opinions will be merged in general party arrangements, and that the Government measure will be accepted.

MR. GLADSTONE AT LIVERPOOL.

On Thursday, the 5th, and Friday, the 6th inst., Mr. Gladstone delivered addresses in Liverpool—the first being at a banquet to the right hon. gentleman in the Philharmonic Hall, and the other at a meeting of the Liberal Association in the Amphitheatre. At the latter meeting (of which we publish an Engraving) Mr. Gladstone's remarks had reference mainly to the Government Reform Bill.

Mr. J. C. Ewart took the chair at seven o'clock, but long before that hour every part of the capacious building was densely crowded, in consequence of it having been announced that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had promised to take part in the proceedings. Mr. Gladstone, on entering the platform, was received with several rounds of cheering, and Mrs. Gladstone, who occupied a seat in one of the stage boxes, was also warmly received. The chairman briefly opened the proceedings, remarking that the progress of the people of England since 1832, fully dispelled the apprehension of those who believed that a reduction of the franchise would lead to anarchy and confusion. Let them, therefore, have confidence in the Government, and especially in their distinguished representative, Mr. Gladstone, who had always shown himself the friend of the people; and he trusted that the result of the meeting would prove that they would be satisfied with nothing less than the measure of reform proposed by her Majesty's Ministers.

Mr. S. J. Rathbone moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting agrees that the bill to extend the right of voting at elections for members of Parliament in England and Wales proposed by her Majesty's Government, and now being placed before the House of Commons, deserves general and hearty support as an honest and practicable proposal towards an amendment of the laws relating to the representation of the people."

Mr. J. K. Jeffrey seconded the resolution, observing that, in 1832, the middle classes owed a great debt to the working men of the country, who were ready to use their physical might to obtain for them the political rights withheld from them by fraud and violence. Now, when all things were calm and quiet, they were bound to repay the debt, and give the working classes that share of political rights which they had so fairly and so hardly earned for themselves.

Mr. Gladstone then rose to address the meeting, and was received with great cheering, which was again and again renewed. The right hon. gentleman commenced by describing the objects of the bill, which were to improve the composition of the House of Commons and to strengthen the institutions of the country, and this, he stated, without bringing in any way one indictment against Parliament as it now stands. A merchant who found that he could by increased outlay make increased profit would not first require to be shown that his business already was a bad one. The only plausible objection against the principle of the bill was that it was incomplete; but the secret of this outcry lay in this, that the persons who refused to be content with anything less than the whole bill were the very same persons who heartily detested the very part that was presented to them, and, knowing this, the Government had asked them, before putting it in their power to use one portion of their plan to raise obstacles against the other, to give a pledge of their general intention by voting for the second reading of the bill. When these gentlemen came to see the views of the Government they would think them very unsound indeed; but their criticisms were rendered of little weight by the fact that they saw no reason for any increase at all. The Government had seen a reason. The bill had been repeatedly and solemnly promised; the present adjustment of the franchise was unfair to the working classes, who, while they pay three-sevenths of the income of the country, and probably a great deal more than one-third of the revenue, have only one-seventh of the constituency. The proportion of the working class to the constituency was 31 per cent in 1832, and now it is about 21; so that the proportion which the Govern-

ment were endeavouring to remedy had been not an increasing but a diminishing proportion. And yet in everything that relates to social duty and to capacity for the enjoyment of political privileges, the working classes in that period had made enormous advances. Mr. Gladstone then alluded to the improving agencies which are so active in the country—the agencies of ministers of religion, of education, and of the press. Could there be anything more absurd than, after having pushed the working men up to the utmost of our power, to turn round and deny them that public and legal recognition to which they were entitled by their fitness? The Government were acting not from a love of conviction nor from a pedantic obedience to what was necessary to vindicate their consistency, but from a deep conviction that they were paying a debt which honour and justice and policy recognized as due to the people. Mr. Gladstone then glanced at the change in the mind and temper of the community within the last thirty years, and gave it an illustration drawn from his own experience not long ago, when he found a parody of the Church service altered so as to refer to the supposed misgovernment of the people meeting only with contempt when sung in the street, whereas such compositions at the time of the first reform bill were extremely popular. The real difference (continued Mr. Gladstone) between us and those who oppose the bill is this—that, as I have said, they regard every demand for the concession of increased political privileges to their fellow-countrymen as an evil—an evil they would sanction in order, perhaps, to evade greater evils, such as the burning of their houses over their heads—but they are not prepared to recognise it as anything but an evil. Hence it is we have these extraordinary demands to know how many exactly there will be in this town and in that. It reminds me very much, Gentlemen, of what took place about the time of the repeal of the corn laws, when our admission of corn from abroad was regarded as a tremendous evil, and it was ascertained with a jealous, feverish, and scrutinising curiosity how many quarters of corn would come from America, how many from Russia, and how many from Odessa and the Baltic. We were told that there would be an inundation of foreign corn, and this awful mischief of an undue augmentation of the quantity of food for the people was regarded with perfectly sincere, real, and true—but we all now see, most ridiculous and contemptible—apprehensions. Very ridiculous were the errors into which men were betrayed by this temperament. You may recollect one of the most distinguished of the opponents of the repeal of the corn laws discovered that there was a place in Russia called Tamboff, and that it was credibly reported, as he had every reason to believe, that the imports from that place alone, after the bill passed, would amount to about thirty-six millions of quarters of corn per annum. Gentlemen, just as reasonable apprehensions are entertained now. For my own part, I stated in the House of Commons, as a kind of challenge, what I hoped would be repelled with eagerness and indignation. I said to some gentlemen who were discussing this subject, "You seem to treat the working men, who are alone to be admitted to the Constitution, as an invading army." To my great astonishment—to my great pain—that imputation, which I had hoped would be indignantly repelled, was warmly accepted as a perfectly true description of the view taken by them. Is this really so or not? Is it true that in this free country, in this Christian country—a country that assumes to be not far from the head of Christian civilisation, after 1850 years illumined with its wisdom, teaching, and example—is it really true—have we come to this, that the best we can hope in old England is that there shall be only a privileged class within a small precinct, which we call the Constitution, and outside of it the toiling masses of our countrymen are to be told, when they approach too near its sacred doors, that they are an invading army? Gentlemen, I must say life would be scarcely worth having, and that certainly the institutions for which we are so thankful would be the cause of shame and disgrace, if such be their character and if such be their resolution. Having referred to the volunteer movement, Mr. Gladstone continued:—"There is another illustration which I can't refrain from mentioning, although it is possible that I may expose myself and others to some misunderstanding—I mean an illustration from the civil war in America. It is now five or six years ago, when Parliamentary reform was under discussion, that it was the fashion to refer to the institutions of America as a perfect failure, and long orations were delivered in the House of Commons setting forth all the causes of that failure, and holding up those institutions as a bugbear to terrify us from proposing any addition to the franchise, and as an invincible argument for maintaining the narrow limits of the several constituencies. Gentlemen, what has taken place since then? I am not going to deliver a general lecture upon the late war in America; above all, I am not going to draw any invidious distinction, or any distinction at all, between one section and another section of that community. For my part, my earnest and devout aspiration is—and I believe that to be the aspiration and desire of England at large—for the welfare of that nation in every part and portion of it, whether it be white or black, whether it be North or South. Neither, Gentlemen, am I going to hold up American institutions as institutions to be preferred to our own. But what I am going to do is this. I think it is our business as men of sense to draw lessons from the experience of mankind, and from the facts that come under our view, whether they be in despotic countries or constitutional countries, or in countries, republican or democratical. The point I ask you to look at is this—not the comparative merits of American institutions, but the one single and important point of the effect that has been produced in America by a largely-extended population franchise, by a widely-spread participation on the part of the people in the choice of their governors, the wonderful, the unexampled, the almost incredible effect that has been produced by that system of giving force of expression to the national will, and enabling the Government to develop the energies, and give effect to the will, such as probably has never been developed in an equal time, and amongst an equal number of men, since the race of mankind sprang into existence. Less than 30,000,000—I don't speak of the negro population, which can hardly be said to have entered into a distinct party in the war, thankful as we may be for its ultimate effect on their destiny—less than 30,000,000 (20,000,000 in the majority and 6,000,000 in the minority) coming to the bloody issue of war on a matter held vital by both, common justice requires us to admit developed an amount of heroism, a power of self-sacrifice, an energy, a perseverance, and a forgetfulness of every personal interest—an amount of force arrayed in support of their chosen rulers, such as I know not where to seek for in the annals of the history of the globe. Well, gentlemen, what I would say is, let us learn lessons where we can; and, amongst others, let us learn them from our brethren, the children of our loins, in America. The position of England, gentlemen, is a peculiar position in the world. England has inherited from bygone ages more, perhaps, of what was most august and venerable in those ages than any other European country; and at the same time her traditions of the past are so rich and fruitful that all our minds and all our characters have, both within our knowledge and beyond our knowledge, been largely moulded by them. She has likewise been exposed, in the highest possible degree, to every moderate influence which the nineteenth century has brought into activity. As, geographically, she stands with Europe on one side of her and America on the other, so she stands between those feudal institutions in which European society was formed and which have given her hierarchy of class, and on the other side those principles of equality which form the basis of society in America. She is not, by a servile imitation of either the one or the other, to forget her own glorious history; but, on the contrary, it is for her to cherish everything she has invented, and to improve it—but to improve it for the sake of preserving it; but it is her duty, while she so looks on the past, to learn likewise from the present. Recent events which have taken place on the other side of the Atlantic have demonstrated to us how, by enlarging the franchise, augmented power can be marshalled on behalf of the Government and increased energy given to the action of a nation. I say that, without forgetfulness of the rules of prudence and circumspection, always acting with the limits of modesty and moderation, but with firmness and determination, we ought to observe, we ought to copy, and we

ought to appropriate, the lessons which may be gathered from the experience of other portions of the human family. It is sometimes said that the measure we propose is a democratic measure. The word 'democracy' has very different senses. If by democracy be meant liberty—if by democracy be meant the extension to each man in his own sphere of every privilege and of every franchise that he can exercise with advantage to himself and with safety to the State—then I must confess I don't see much to alarm us in the word democracy. But if by democracy be meant the enthroning of ignorance against knowledge, the setting up of vice in opposition to virtue, the disregard of rank, the forgetfulness of what our fathers have done for us, indifference or coldness with regard to the inheritance we enjoy, then, gentlemen, I for one—and I believe for all I have the honour to address—in that sense am the enemy of democracy. But in such a sense this is not a democratic community. On the contrary, there is a love for that arrangement and constitution of society which we have inherited from former times, and I don't believe that of the entire community there is one man in a hundred who would disturb it if he could. There is but one thing that can make this country, aristocratic in its feelings, become a country democratic in its feelings; that day I think would be an unhappy day, and I know nothing that could bring that day about unless it were a forgetfulness by the British aristocracy that their order has at all times, beyond any aristocracy of the world, been trustful and confiding in its temper towards the people, mild and forbearing in its use of privilege, and ready to give leaders to the nation in every cause connected with its honour and its liberty. I am sorry, gentlemen, whenever, even for a moment, and even in a particular instance, there may be a disposition to depart from the noble and glorious traditions of the British aristocracy. I am sorry that at the moment I now speak immediate danger to the measure that the Government have introduced should proceed from a name honoured in the lists of the aristocracy. A notice of motion has been given by Lord Grosvenor for the purpose of defeating the bill, and we are told—and as the announcement has been publicly made without contradiction, we are, I suppose, truly told—that that notice is to be seconded by Lord Stanley. I know no two individuals more entitled to respect and honour in the position they occupy; but I am bound to say that I think more deplorable arrangement was never made, a more gross blunder was never committed, than when, in the councils of political party, with that kind of cleverness which so often outwits itself, it was determined that the two representatives of two of our noblest and most ancient houses should come forward combinedly for the purpose of defeating an act of grace, but what is likewise, besides being an act of grace, an act of justice, to a great community of the country. However, gentlemen, much lamenting that unhappy instance, I am persuaded that that is not to be taken as an indication that there will be a fundamental change in that wise moderation which has hitherto for the most part distinguished the conduct of the most favoured members of society, those upon whom the bounties of Providence have been poured in the largest abundance. I do not think that that movement, formidable though it be, is likely to succeed. We have framed a measure, I think, in the strictest spirit of moderation. We do not desire—we should be the first to resist—sudden, violent, and sweeping changes; but the progressive enlargement of the popular franchise, with due regard to the state and circumstances of the country, we consider not to be liable to the application of any of the epithets bestowed upon it. Having produced this measure, framed in a spirit of moderation, we hope to support it with decision. It is not in our power to secure the passing of the measure; that rests more with you, and more with those whom you represent, and of whom you are a sample, than it does with us. Still we have a great responsibility, and are conscious of it, and we do not intend to flinch from it. We stake ourselves; we stake our existence as a Government—whether it be worth much or little is not for us to say—but such as it is we stake it; and we also stake our political character on the adoption of the bill in its main provisions. You have a right to expect from us that we should tell you what we mean, and that the trumpet which it is our business to blow shall give forth no uncertain sound. Its sound has not been, and I trust will not be, uncertain. We have passed the Rubicon, we have broken the bridge, and burned the boats behind us. We have advisedly cut off the means of retreat, and, having done this, we hope that, as far as time has yet permitted, we have done our duty to the Crown and the nation. The result, gentlemen, is in other hands than ours. I beseech you—I beseech all reflecting Englishmen in whose hands, by the well understood constitution of our country, the ultimate settlement of this great issue is lodged, to consider what the future is to be. I can't doubt, from the extraordinary working and movement of society, that there is on the part of the masses of the community a forward and onward movement; which forward and onward movement will be perfectly safe and harmless—and not only safe and harmless, but infinitely profitable—if we only deal with it wisely and in time. But read the signs of the times. The voice that once spoke as never man spoke rebuked those in authority who could not read the signs of the times. Does any man really suppose that the political limit signified by the number ten is to be for ever and ever, from generation to generation, the limit within which all are to enjoy—but beyond which every man is to be deprived the enjoyment of—the franchise? Certainly not. The defeat of the bill—what would it procure? An interval—but not an interval of repose; an interval of fever, an interval of expectation, an interval for the working of those influences which might possibly arise, even to the formidable dimensions of political danger. Let the great English nation be wise, and be wise in time. Let it not through any unwisely dallying—through any unwise neglect of an opportunity as favourable, I believe, as ever offered to the Legislature—and through the influence of weak, or cowardly, or selfish apprehensions, refuse the granting of a boon which, I am firmly persuaded, if granted now will be received as a boon, and in a spirit of gratitude, and tend, not only to increase the attachment of the people to the institutions of the country, but to its rulers. Let them not convert what is for their own advantage into an occasion of danger and of evil; but let them, in regard to the duty of the day and the prospects of the future, rally round us and strengthen us for the task which we have in hand. If they so rally round us, whatever difficulties lie in our way will soon be surmounted; and the next time we meet in these now crowded halls it will be to congratulate one another on the passing of this measure into law, and on the evident fruits which it may have begun to produce in the augmented contentment, attachment, and loyalty of the people."

The right hon. gentleman then resumed his seat amidst enthusiastic cheering.

On the motion of Mr. Still, seconded by Mr. Chilton, a petition to Parliament in favour of the bill of the Government was unanimously adopted. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Gladstone, and briefly acknowledged by the right hon. gentleman; and a similar vote having been passed to Mr. Ewart for presiding, the proceedings terminated shortly before ten o'clock.

MUNIFICENT GIFT.—Mr. Peter Pantel Ralli, of 5, Connaught-place West Hyde Park, the eminent Greek merchant, has just presented to the committee of King's College Hospital, through Dr. Priestley, the munificent sum of £6000, for the purpose of establishing a ward for poor sick children at that institution. The ward is to be called the "Pantel Ralli" ward, in memory of the late Mr. Pantel Ralli, the father of the generous donor. It will contain about a dozen beds; and, besides the great benefits it will confer upon the sick children of the poor neighbourhood in which the hospital is situated, it will give increased opportunities to students to gain experience in the treatment of infantile diseases, and afford facilities to the ladies of the St. John's House Training Institution (who have conducted the nursing of the hospital for the last ten years) to train nurses especially to attend to sick children. The new ward will be a most valuable addition to the usefulness of this excellent charity, which, being unendowed and entirely dependent upon voluntary subscriptions, could not have undertaken the additional cost of a children's ward but for the liberal assistance of M. Ralli. The whole of this liberal donation is invested in order to form the nucleus of a permanent income for the sick children's ward, and it is proposed to increase the number of beds as soon as additional subscriptions will permit. In the mean time, the committee will gradually receive donations towards the furnishing and other preliminary expenses of the ward.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

In the midst of the excitement arising from the bellicose attitude of Austria and Prussia, the attention of the Parisians has been directed to their own affairs by another arbitrary act against the freedom of the press by the Minister of the Interior. In an article on the forthcoming election at Strasbourg, the *Opinion Nationale* said that "for fifteen years France had 'allowed credit' to the Government, but that now she claimed the payment of her debt—that is, liberty; that it was imperative to do away with the inconsistency existing between a constitution which proclaimed that all liberties existed, and laws that suppressed them all in the name of public safety." This M. de Lavalette considers a "lying impudent," calculated to "surprise the good faith" of the Strasbourg electors, "and a violent attack against the Constitution established by universal suffrage." M. de Lavalette therefore administers a second warning to the *Opinion Nationale*.

The Senate has adopted "the previous question" upon the petition for a modification of the Constitution relative to the right of petition.

ITALY.

It is stated that the Minister of Finance and the Financial Committee of the Chamber of Deputies have come to an arrangement based upon mutual concessions.

An address, signed by 400 Frenchmen, has been presented to the Pope by the Duke de Rohan. His Holiness, in reply, expressed his gratitude for the assistance so constantly rendered by France to the Holy See, and referred in eulogistic terms to the speeches recently delivered by the Emperor Napoleon at the opening of the French Chambers, and on receiving their replies to the Speech from the Throne.

M. Dumortier has also presented to the Pope an address to his Holiness sent from Belgium, which deplores that the revolution should have interrupted the reforms inaugurated by the Holy See in 1848. The Pope replied that the first years of his reign had been the happiest, and he was persuaded that peace would facilitate the accomplishment of his ideas.

A Florence letter of the 4th, in the French *Opinion Nationale*, says:—

Sixty-five thousand Italian troops are now concentrated upon the line between Bologna and Ferrara, and 35,000 are stationed at or near Piacenza. Large quantities of war material are being conveyed from Alessandria to Bologna. The Piacenza Hussars have left Caserta for Upper Italy, and the Monferrato cavalry will shortly follow from Nola. The Guides are to proceed from Naples direct to Caserta. These movements are stated to have the object of preparing a second line in the two corps now being concentrated under General Cialdini and General Durando; the first on the right of the Po, at Bologna, and the second to the left of Piacenza. The field batteries have also received orders to march from Naples and Caserta direct to the camp of Bologna. Advices from Venetia announce that orders have been given to prepare quarters for the officers of four Croatian regiments now on their way from Germany, and shortly expected at Venice. Information has been requested by telegraph from the provincial delegations respecting the localities available in the different towns for military quarters, and for storing provisions and war materials. The Austrian army occupying Venetia at present consists of 75,000 men, this being the peace establishment. In fifteen or twenty days it is stated that this force could be doubled by calling in the soldiers on furlough.

AUSTRIA AND PRUSSIA.

The paper war between the two great German Powers still continues, and becomes more embittered from day to day. Baron von Werther, the Prussian Minister at Vienna, has delivered the following to Count Mensdorff, in reply to the Austrian note of the 31st ult.:—

The undersigned is instructed by his Government to notify to your Excellency the reception of the communication which the Imperial Envoy in Berlin presented in a note, dated the 31st ult., to the President of the Ministry and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Count Bismarck. The President of the Ministry did not delay submitting that note, in accordance with the wish therein expressed, to his Majesty the King, his most gracious Sovereign, and with reference thereto the undersigned is instructed to address to your Excellency the following observations:—

The fears of danger to the preservation of peace have arisen solely from the fact that Austria, without any apparent cause, has begun, since the 30th of last month, to push forward considerable armed forces in a threatening manner towards the Prussian frontier.

The Imperial Government has given no explanation respecting its motives for this strange proceeding; for the statement that the apprehensions of the Jewish inhabitants had rendered those armaments necessary is as irreconcilable with the extent of the latter as it is with the locality at which the assembled reinforcements are stationed—namely, on the Saxon and Prussian frontier, where the security of the Jews has never been endangered.

Had Austria, like Prussia, believed herself to be threatened, it might certainly have been expected, after the sentiments expressed in Count Karoly's note that the Cabinet of Vienna, while referring to art. 11 of the Federal pact, would have made known to the Federal Diet, or, at least, to the Prussian Government, the facts which appeared to Austria to be of a threatening nature. Instead of that, up to the present time there has been no endeavour to justify the pretended defensive character of the Austrian armaments by specifying any signs of a danger against which defensive measures should be directed. The secrecy with which the Austrian armaments have been surrounded, and the effort to make their well-known extent appear in the eyes of the Prussian Government less important than it actually is, has only strengthened the natural impression respecting them—viz., that the Imperial troops on the northern frontier of Austria, which have been daily reinforced during the last fortnight, are destined for an offensive hostile undertaking against Prussia. Notwithstanding this, the Prussian Government delayed for ten days—viz., till the 28th ult.—the issue of orders to prepare measures of defence, because the King, the undersigned's most gracious Sovereign, foresaw that the accumulation of military forces in front of one another would more seriously endanger peace than could have been the case until then through the exchange of diplomatic despatches. Only when, through the number and position of the Austrian troops on the Bohemian frontier, the safety of the Prussian territory threatened to become dependent upon the resolutions of the Austrian Cabinet, did his Majesty order measures to be taken for the protection of the country, at the same time taking note of the fact that it was the Austrian Government which, from motives up till now unexplained, had by military menace placed the Prussian frontier in a situation of danger, for which no precedent is to be found in the politics or international intercourse of Europe, and for which the Prussian Government must decidedly reject every responsibility. Unless the Austrian Government really intended to attack Prussia, the Prussian Government cannot understand why Austria should have adopted these military measures.

The undersigned energetically repels the utterly groundless suspicion that Prussia has hitherto had any intention to violate the peace, and is, at the same time, instructed formally to declare to Count Mensdorff that nothing is further from the intentions of his Majesty the King than an offensive war against Austria.

The King of Prussia is the less able to doubt the Emperor's personal sentiments, inasmuch as he entirely reciprocates them, and will preserve his own feelings of friendship towards his Imperial Majesty undisturbed by political circumstances. The Imperial Government cannot fail to have opportunities for expressing by its acts its friendly sentiments towards the Prussian kingdom.

The Austrian despatch in reply to the above note is said to be short, but moderate in its tone. It demands that the Prussian armaments shall be discontinued, and declares that otherwise Austria will call upon the Federal Diet to interfere.

A letter from Cracow, dated April 4, contains the following:—

A Prussian Infantry regiment and a detachment of Uhlans arrived on Monday, from Brieg to Oppeln, whence, after a short delay, they were sent on to Cosen. Ratibor, Bauerwitz, Leobschütz, and Gnadenfeld swarm with troops, which are to occupy the frontier from Neisse to Ratibor. A telegram has been sent from Breslau ordering all the fortresses on the Bohemian and Moravian frontier to be put in a state of defence. In consequence of this order a body of engineers arrived at Glatz and Neisse to place those fortresses on a war footing. Passengers arriving here from Upper Silesia report that troops in large numbers are being forwarded by the Breslau and Glogau Railway. From Breslau, which is the head-quarters of the Prussian army in Silesia, trains, filled with troops, are sent off in one direction towards Glaz and the Saxon frontier by Leignitz, and in another towards Appeln, Ratibor, and the frontier of Galicia and Silesia. At the Prussian frontier station of Myslowitz the utmost surveillance is exercised upon strangers arriving by the trains from Cracow. Passports are carefully examined, and passengers are asked questions as to the purport and direction of their journey, the object, no doubt, being to prevent spies from learning anything of the movements and position of the Russian troops.

The Bavarian Government has forwarded a despatch to its Ministers at the Courts of Berlin and Vienna, in which Prussia and Austria are besought to avoid all hostile measures towards each

other, and at once to commence negotiations for the preservation of peace. The Bavarian despatch considers that, after the late notes of the Prussian and Austrian Cabinets, there can be no fear of immediate hostilities, both Powers being willing to open negotiations for the solution of the present difficulty in conjunction with the other members of the confederation.

The *Indépendance Belge* affirms that the Duke of Coburg has communicated directly to the King of Prussia letters of a conciliatory character which he had received from Count Mensdorff. The same paper states positively that, after a correspondence between the Emperor of Russia and the King of Prussia, the former Sovereign sent General Richter to Vienna to call upon Austria to disarm. Austria, it is said, will probably make her disarmament conditional upon Prussia also disarming. It is believed that the intervention of Russia, though it may not lead to any settlement of the difficulty, will nevertheless prevent for some time any further complication.

The *Neues Fremdenblatt* announces positively that an offensive and defensive alliance has been concluded between Italy and Prussia against Austria. It gives a general summary of the treaty, which it asserts bears date the 27th of March, and has been signed at Florence and Berlin, and adds—"We are not sure that the ratifications of the treaty have yet been exchanged."

At a special sitting of the Federal Diet, on the 9th instant, the Prussian representative made the following propositions:—

- That an assembly should be convened composed of members directly elected throughout Germany by universal suffrage, to meet upon a day to be appointed, in order to receive proposals to be laid before the German Government for a reform of the Federal Constitution.
- That negotiations should in the meantime take place between the various Governments to settle the above proposals.

A motion, brought forward by the Austrian representative, as President of the Diet, demanding the immediate communication to the Federal Governments of the Prussian motion, was agreed to. The Prussian representative advocated the earliest possible appointment of a committee for the examination of the proposal made by his Government.

HUNGARY.

The Committee of the Hungarian Diet on affairs common to Hungary and Croatia has resolved that the Transylvanian deputies shall take part in the verification of the supplementary elections which have recently taken place.

The commission intrusted with the task of drawing up a programme of reforms has resolved that eight committees shall be constituted for the following purposes:—For the consideration of Transylvanian questions; for drawing up general rules and standing orders of Parliamentary proceedings; for examining the municipal laws; for the elaboration of a code of laws for the towns and communes; for discussing questions relating to public worship, national economy, and public institutions. Each of these committees, in drawing up its report, is to keep in view the prospective appointment of a special and responsible Minister for the branch of administration with which it is concerned.

ROUMANIA.

It is said there are great diversities of opinion at the conferences on the Danubian Principalities question; but that upon one question all are agreed—namely, the necessity of preserving the Turkish empire in its integrity, and the sovereignty of the Sublime Porte over the principalities.

The Minister of War has addressed a report to the provisional Government upon the military force of the country, which states that upon the first summons, 40,000 men, soldiers of the Line and frontier guards, would be ready for active service. Thirty-two battalions of militia, to be composed of time-expired soldiers and civic guards, are in course of formation. The artillery force consists of one hundred guns, and could be placed on a war footing in a week. The Minister of War adds that at any given moment these regular forces would form a rallying-point for all Roumanians loving their country and liberty.

THE UNITED STATES.

Our advices from New York reach to the 31st ult.

President Johnson had sent a message to the Senate vetoing the Civil Rights Bill. He argues that it is unconstitutional, unnecessary, and anomalous in its character, and would override the rights of the States as reserved in their Legislatures and judicial tribunals. He adds:—

The grave question presents itself, whether, where eleven States are not represented in Congress, it is sound policy to make the whole coloured population and other excepted classes citizens of the United States. Can it reasonably be supposed that four millions of negroes who have just emerged from slavery possess the necessary qualifications entitling them to all the privileges of citizenship, while intelligent foreigners undergo five years' probation before becoming citizens? The details of the bill are fraught with evil. The distinction of race and colour is made to operate in favour of the coloured against the white race. The general Government by this bill absorbs and assumes powers which, if acquiesced in, would destroy the federative system of limited powers, and break down the barriers preserving the rights of the States; it is another stride towards centralisation and the concentration of the legislative power in the national Government. The tendency of the bill is to resuscitate the spirit of rebellion and arrest the progress of those influences which are drawing more closely round the States the bonds of union and peace. I fully recognise the obligation to defend and protect the negroes, wherever and whenever necessary, to the full extent of the Constitution, and will co-operate with Congress in any measures necessary for the preservation of the civil rights of freedmen, as well as of all persons in the United States, by judicial process and under equal and impartial laws, conformatly with the Constitution.

Nothing of importance had occurred in Congress except the refusal by the House of Representatives to permit Mr. Stevens to introduce a constitutional amendment allowing Congress to impose an export duty on cotton. All eyes were directed towards Connecticut, where the Democrats and Republicans were struggling to secure the election of their respective candidates.

The Fenian excitement was dying out in New York as well as in Canada. The Fenian leaders are now working a new vein. Not having invaded Canada, or British Columbia, or Ireland, their deluded followers are apparently wanting to know what is to be done. The leaders, therefore, have now issued an order that there shall be no disclosure of their plan of operations.

General Lee's evidence before the Reconstruction Committee declares that nothing like sentiments of hostility to the Federal Government, or combination or conspiracies having that end in view, exists in Virginia. He says:—"The people, though disappointed and saddened, accept the result of the war submissively, and are now only looking to their material interests. The surest means of reconciling the people and making them cordial supporters of the Government is to grant them equal political rights with other States." He considers that Virginia would be much better off without the negroes. He repudiates the idea that cruelties were purposely inflicted on Federal prisoners. Several gentlemen from Virginia who were sent as a delegation to President Johnson have also testified to the absence of any desire on the part of the people to renew the conflict. They stated that the people at large were unalterably opposed to the extension of political rights to negroes, but that the Legislature was removing obnoxious discrepancies in the civil law between whites and blacks. The delegation believed that in case of foreign war Virginia would be loyal to the Government and the Union. Generals Terry, Turner, and Brown concurred, however, in stating that the sentiments of the people of Virginia regarding the Government were unimproved, and, if anything, embittered, since General Lee's surrender. At that time people were sick of war, and ready to accept the pardon of the Government on any terms; whereas they are now arrogant, exacting, and intolerant. Most of the witnesses of strong Union sentiments considered the withdrawal of the Imperial troops and of the Freedmen's Bureau would be followed by the unrelenting proscription and remission to slavery of the negro population.

MEXICO.

Advices from Matamoros, dated the 19th ult., state that General Douay had defeated the Liberals at Paras, North Mexico. The Liberals, being afterwards reinforced, attacked the French under

Baron du Briar, who was killed. General Douay was subsequently besieged in the church at Paras, which he held, with only fifty men, until he was reinforced.

THE WEST INDIES.

The West India mail-steamer arrived at Southampton on Wednesday evening, bringing intelligence from Jamaica to the 24th ult. The island was perfectly quiet. The squatting negroes, finding that Sir H. Stork intends the law to be paramount, had given up all appearance of resistance to it. The inquiry was nearly completed.

AUSTRALASIA.

We have news from Melbourne to Feb. 24. The elections had resulted in a large majority for the Ministry, and the new Parliament was opened on the 13th, when the Governor announced that the Tariff Bill would be immediately submitted to it. The recall of the Governor was not known in Melbourne at the above date.

New Zealand advises report that General Chute had made a most successful expedition to Taranaki, and that the country was much more settled.

THE RELIGIOUS MASSACRE AT BARLETTA.

SIGNOR GAETANO GIANNINI, a Protestant minister who was compelled to fly from Barletta during the late massacre at the instigation of Roman Catholic priests, has addressed a long letter to the Evangelical journal *Echo of Truth*. After giving particulars of his own escape, he proceeds as follows:—

When the master of my house had seen me safe, he went down and found his wife wounded in the forehead. With her left arm she had warded off blows of a stick, she at the time having an infant of five months hanging to her neck. He rescued her from the hands of the villains and put her in a place of safety. Meanwhile, the people plundered the apartment of Signor Luigi Petrucci, and having found there our dear friend Beppino del Curato, they killed him and threw him from the balcony on to the fire. After having set that apartment on fire they made their way into my room, where my landlord courageously met them. "Give us the Protestant," they cried, and when he told them I had escaped they struck him with a stick on the head, but, as they disputed whether to kill him or not, he succeeded in getting away, and escaped, like myself, over the roof. Everything was plundered and given to the flames. The harm done to him was for more than 2000 ducats, but he disregarded his own life to save mine. The walls of the house alone remained. A like fate was that of another dear brother, Concilio, wine merchant; everything was burnt and robbed, and great quantities of wine and oil were let run out. A fourth brother was dragged from his house to be killed, after they had burnt his bed and other furniture. Some of the townsmen sought to save him, but in vain; at last, as he rested on his knees, one took the cross from the hands of the savages and laid it on his shoulders, and he cried out that Christ was his Saviour, but an infernal hand thrust a dagger into his breast, and he was barbarously killed. This dear brother was Agostino Ruggiero, who has left his wife converted to the Lord, with two children, the same who were with me on the roof. Many of our brethren fled into the country. Towards nightfall a priest came among them as a friend, and after conversing with them he went his way; but before much time was past they saw him on horseback, heading a party of countrymen and seeking them. They fled and scattered, and each one hid himself as best he could. Praise be to the Lord that the darkness confused and blinded those Saracens, who passed close to four of the brothers hid under a tree without seeing them. At three or four a.m. they returned into town and were all saved. Many said that the mob came from the cathedral after the sermon. That I know not; but I know well that Postiglione often preached a crusade against us, and on the 19th, with the cross, were cries of "Viva King Victor Emmanuel!" "Viva Garibaldi!" "Viva la Fede and death to the Protestants!" Of the Evangelicals three were killed; another young man was taken for a Protestant and stoned, and his corpse was dragged on the ground. Of those who died, nine were killed and many wounded. The delegate, having some personal resemblance with me, was stabbed, and narrowly escaped death. A guard, one of our brethren in Jesus Christ, was badly wounded in the head and in the right thigh. The blood of our Barletta brethren is the triumph of the Gospel, and the flame there lighted up is extinguishable. There is but one voice; they will have a temple; and no longer one preacher but two.

A SEAMAN NAMED JOHN C. DONOVAN announces that he will shortly sail from New York, for Europe, in the brig *Vision*. This vessel is the smallest that has ever attempted a voyage across the Atlantic. She is brig-rigged, is 16 ft. long, 4 ft. 6 in. beam, and 2 ft. 10 in. depth of hold. Once before she attempted the voyage, but had to put back to New York, and if she succeeds now it will be a remarkable performance.

A WORKHOUSE, BUT NOT A PAUPER DINNER.—The hour appointed for the meeting of this board is half-past nine, but it is not until noon that the guardians begin to muster in force. The business will be finished now in half an hour, and at one the guardians dine at the expense of the rate-payers. One or two of the guardians, shirking the duties of the board altogether, have already found their way into the kitchen. "Well, cook, what have you got for us to-day?" "Sirloin of beef, Sir. Look here!" and the cook pulls back the screen and discloses a prime sirloin, dripping with rich brown gravy. "Am I right, Sir?" says the cook, tapping the sirloin with his knife. "Right you have, old fellow!" says the guardian, "if you haven't forgot the Yorkshire pudd'n'." "Ha! ha! Sir," laughs the cook, "look here"—But at this moment an excited guardian runs in, and exclaims, "I say, look sharp! The cellar is bein' shut up." This intimation acts like magic upon the guardians, who immediately clear out of the kitchen and scamper across the yard to the cellar. The custodian of this department is just closing it. "Oh, come, I say, this won't do!" says a guardian. "Not a bit of it," says another; "we ain't going to be done in this way." "How are yer?" says a third, addressing the cellarman in a friendly and coaxing manner. "Ain't going away yet, surely?" The butler unlocks the door, and the whole party enter the cave of delight. "Glasses, gentlemen," says the paupers' butler, offering tumblers. "No glass for me," answers the "bad un." "I ain't partic'lar. This here will do." And he seizes a dirty pewter pot and hangs it to be filled. And so the guardians fill and fill again, and pledge each other in the liquor purchased with the money of the rate-payers for the benefit of the sick poor. As one o'clock approaches they leave the cellar and proceed to the board-room, at the door of which, as the hour strikes, the cook, in a clean white apron, appears and announces "dinner." "Look out, now," says an inmate to the shivering crew of paupers in the passage, "or you'll all be knocked over." "Clear the way for the gentlemen, will you?" cries an official. And immediately out come the guardians in an ugly rush, each one bringing his chair with him, and all scattering the paupers right and left in their eager haste to reach the feeding-room. The charges for these weekly feasts have been again and again disallowed by the Poor-Law Board, but they are always admitted by the vestry, and so the weekly dinner is continued in open defiance of the Poor-Law Board, and of every other authority whatsoever.—*All the Year Round*.

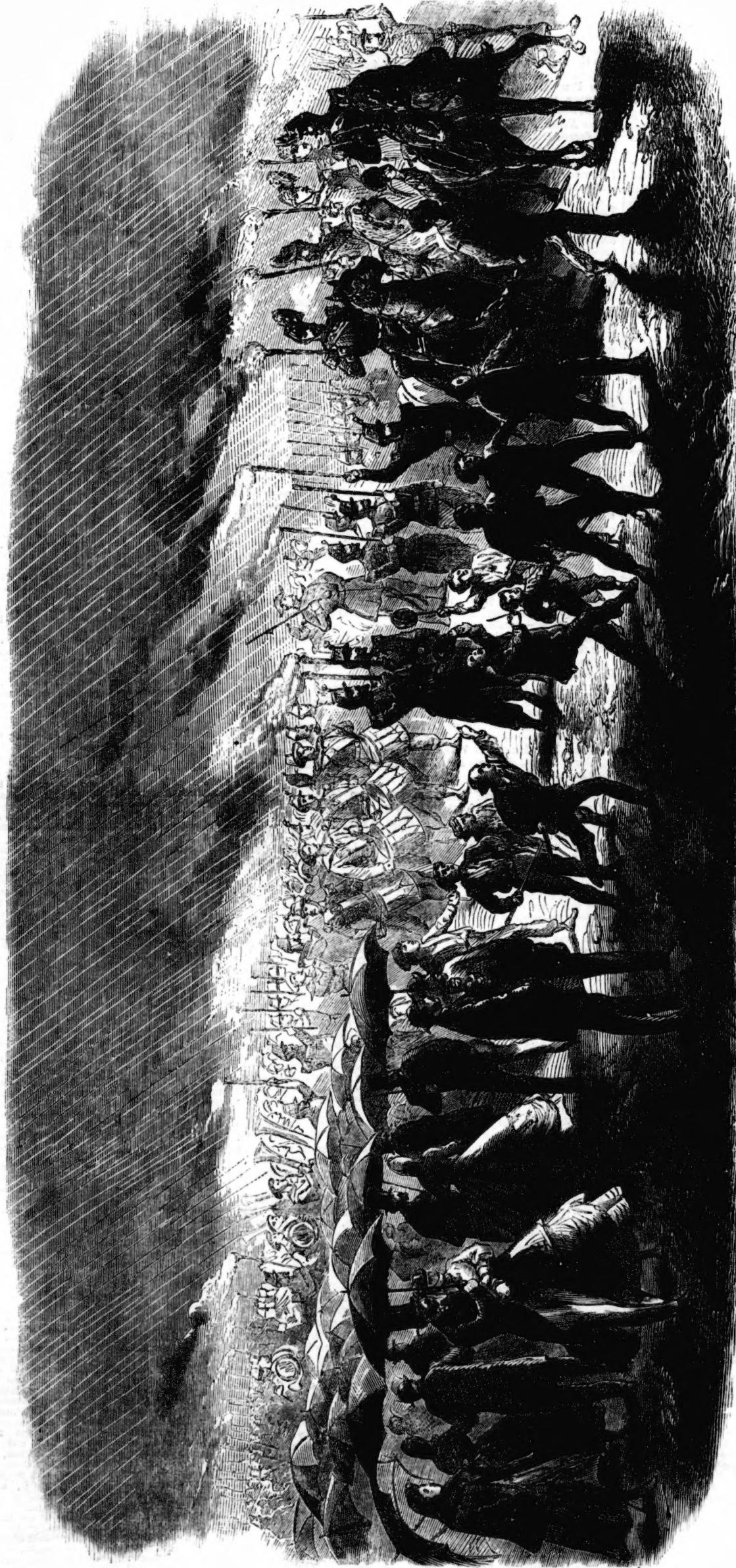
EDUCATION IN IRELAND.—The public will, no doubt, be glad to know how the matter of mixed education actually stands at present in the Irish National Schools. The Archbishop of Dublin, in his primary charge, stated that "mixed education exists already much more in name than in reality, however little this may be recognised in England. It was the hope and expectation of bringing about such a blending together and fusing of all our people which animated the original founders of this system. Despite of limited and partial successes here and there, this grand hope of theirs has been defeated, and every day it is becoming more impossible to conceal the fact of a defeat." This statement, proceeding *ex cathedra* from so high an authority, would seem to be decisive. But Dean Atkins has analysed the returns of the National Board for the last quarter in the past year, and has given the results in an appendix to his sermon on "The Irish Education Question." The figures, of the accuracy of which there can be no question, are very remarkable, and will probably lead many persons to modify their views on the subject. The schools are divided into three classes. In the first the master is a Protestant; in the second he is a Roman Catholic; and in the third there are two masters, one Protestant and the other Catholic. In "Class A," under Protestant masters, there are 1023 schools, with 75,521 Protestant pupils, and 20,163 Roman Catholic pupils—that is, between a third and a fourth of the children in those schools are Roman Catholics, and a case of proselytism has never been heard of. In "Class B," under Roman Catholic masters, there are 2152 schools, with 205,934 Roman Catholic pupils and 17,248 Protestant pupils. In "Class C," where there is a teacher of each creed, the number of schools is 269, and of pupils 13,783 Roman Catholics, with 10,824 Protestants. Thus there are 3384 schools in which united education is going on. In these schools the Roman Catholics are 239,890 and the Protestants 103,593: total under the influence of united education, 343,483, which shows an increase of over 48,000 in mixed schools since 1859. It is true that nine tenths of the mixed schools are in Ulster; but it must be remembered that in the other provinces more than nine tenths of the population are Roman Catholics, and there cannot be Protestant children where there are not Protestant parents. Dean Atkins makes the following reflection on the returns:—"It does seem strange to hear this described as 'partial and limited.' 239,890 Roman Catholics mixing every day with 103,593 Protestant children, or, in other words, 343,480 Irish children having, in a greater or less degree, their religious animosities softened, and learning that they are to live in peace and harmony and to respect mutually their religious opinions. This seems a great and wonderful result to have been produced even by the National Board, with all the opposition it has encountered from contending parties."

VISITORS TO ROME IN HOLY WEEK. Our Engraving represents one of those interesting scenes which may be witnessed daily in the streets of Rome during the great Catholic anniversary. As we have, in former Numbers, described the peculiarities of the sub-urban and village population which invades Rome on holiday occasions and during religious festivals, there is little necessity for dwelling further on the picturesque costumes and quaint ceremonies of the visitors to the Imperial city during the season that has just passed. According to custom, His Holiness has visited every church in the capital during the period of Lent, and, as there are 300 of them, the fatigues of such an arduous duty may easily be imagined, and when to this observance is added all the other ceremonies which belong specially to Holy Week, it may be expected that the health of the Pontiff will be seriously affected by his exertions.

THE FETE AT TOULON ON THE BIRTHDAY OF THE PRINCE IMPERIAL. The tenth anniversary of the birthday of the Prince Imperial of France has this year been celebrated by the different divisions of the French army in all parts of the empire with more than usual *empressement*. At Toulon the festival has been of the liveliest and most enthusiastic description; and Compiegne, where they joined in a sort of military family party in

if music can be considered to be the most expressive token of wild gaiety, in the great French seaport may be said to have abandoned itself to loyal joy in spite of weather which might have daunted the most determined holiday-makers in the world.

The whole population of the town took part in the festivities, which were inaugurated by the military and naval authorities, and even joined in the culminating demonstration of a grand torchlight procession, accompanied by the united bands, banners, and bravery of the army and fleet. Almost at the same moment and in a similar manner the regiments of dragoons forming a guard of honour to the Empress celebrated the anniversary at Compiegne, where they joined in a sort of military family party in the



TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION AT TOULON, WITH NAVAL BANDS, ON OCCASION OF THE BIRTHDAY OF THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.

THE great hall of the barracks, which was decorated for the occasion with that severe simplicity of ornament which consists of bayonet stars, sword-blade scrolls, and stands of bayonets mingled with flags. In this saloon the banquet was served which terminated the festival; and the various toasts were greeted with salvos of applause, delivered with true military precision.

APPLICATION OF HYDRAULICS TO STEAM-SHIPS.

An unpretending-looking little steamship of eighty-seven tons, named the Nautilus, left London Bridge, on Saturday morning last, with a company of practical engineers, naval architects, and other scientific men on

ventures vibration, and consequent wear and tear; the pitching and rolling of a heavy sea produces none of that reactions reaction which strains every part of the ship; the steamer leaves no swell and very little ferment behind; the peculiarity of the machinery enables the hull to be built on the lines of the best clipper-ship that sails; and then comes in the additional claim of economy, both in construction and working.

The Nautilus was tested with one of the ordinary iron paddle-boats, and in the race down towards Gravesend she held her own, and once or twice got well ahead. The average speed was eleven miles and a half an hour. The Admiralty are so convinced of the fitness of the principle that they are now building a gun-boat (the Waterwitch) at Blackwall, to be worked by the hydraulic propeller. This gun-boat will be launched probably in May, and as she is to be of 778 tons burden, and 167-horse power, her trial will, in a measure decide a very important question as to the future of steam-ships.

a matter of perfect indifference. The advantage here is immense when it is remembered how many disasters at sea have been traceable to the loss of a rudder, the breaking down of a paddle, or the fouling of a screw. In the Nautilus no portion of the machinery is exposed. If she were a ship driving out a thick, perpetual column of water through apertures, termed nozzles, on each side of the ship. This propelling power, unlike the paddle and rudder would be therefore useless; and if she were a merchantman she would not labour under the disadvantage of paddles to diminish her sailing powers, or of that inevitable weakness of stern which attends the use of the screw. A gain, the leak, which in other ships too often means hopeless destruction, becomes here, if not a positive blessing, at least no source of danger or inconvenience, because the *greedy wheel* can be made to swallow up the dangerous water, use it to increase the speed of the vessel, and in doing so to send it out considerably faster than it came in. These are put forward as the main advantages, but it will at once be seen they would involve others, secondary perhaps to a certain extent, but still fraught with benefit. Thus, the uniform working of the machinery pre-

The principle can be described in a single sentence. In the centre of the ship, and below the waterline, there is fixed a kind of Turbine wheel, supplied with water through holes in the vessel's bottom, and which, being set in motion by an ordinary steam-engine, revolves rapidly, and drives out a thick, perpetual column of water through apertures, termed nozzles, on each side of the ship. This propelling power, unlike the paddle and screw, does not force the vessel ahead by pushing back the water, but acts directly on the vessel (something like the recoil produced by firing a gun), preventing, of course, that loss of power caused by every revolution of the paddle or screw. The all-important agents, the nozzles, are the tubes through which the water is expelled from the wheel to the outlet apertures on the water-line. When the steady stream is directed towards the stern, the ship goes ahead; when to the stern, she backs; and when the streams flow one each way, the vessel, as if on a pivot, turns on her own length. These nozzles are so positioned that they can be used to steer as well as to propel the ship; so that the smashing of a rudder would be

her decks. She was innocent of paint, uninumbered with masts and rigging, and looked altogether rather rough and homely, made as she started off on her trial-trip. The novelty was that the vessel was propelled with neither paddle nor screw; and the river-faring people stared with no little incredulity on the strange innovation. The Nautilus is the property of private gentlemen who have sufficient faith in what is known as "Ruthven's hydraulic propeller" to fit her up with it, and challenge the attention of the scientific world to the invention. The principle is so simple, and its promised advantages are so enormous, that, if the expectations of the promoters are realised, the revolution in merchant shipping will be almost as great as that caused by the substitution of iron armour for oakens planks in the navy. The importance of the results involved certainly deserved the close observation with which the scientific gentlemen on board watched the experiment; and the almost unanimous conclusions arrived at appeared to be highly favourable to the newly-applied motive power.



HOLY WEEK AT ROME: VILLAGERS ASSEMBLING FOR RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

Imperial Parliament.

MONDAY, APRIL 9.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House of Commons resumed its sittings on Monday for the first time since the Easter holidays. On the Speaker taking the chair, at a quarter to four o'clock, the right hon. gentleman thanked the House for its kindness and consideration towards him during his recent illness, and said that it bound him to the House by new ties of gratitude and affection. He might require some slight help for a day or two, but he trusted that in a very short time he should be entirely equal to all his duties. The right hon. gentleman, who was obliged to retain his seat whilst addressing the House, was greeted with loud cheers. Mr. Malcolm took his seat for the borough of Boston, and Captain Herbert for the county of Kerry. Letters were read from the agents of the respective parties announcing that the petitions against the returns for Lewes, King's Lynn, Beverley, and Wexford had been withdrawn.

CULTIVATION OF OYSTERS.

Mr. HUNT called attention to that portion of the report of the Sea Fisheries Commissioners which, with the view of promoting the cultivation of oysters, recommends the appropriation of public grounds in estuaries and other places for the formation of oyster-beds. He suggested the passing of a general Act for this purpose, which, like the Railway Clauses Consolidation Act, would be embodied in all private bills, indicating the various interests which would have to be considered; and asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he contemplated the introduction of any measure on the subject this Session.

Mr. GIBSON replied that the Government were fully alive to the importance of promoting the cultivation of oysters in the way suggested, and had a bill under consideration which, when matured, would, as he believed, carry out the objects in view and meet all the difficulties of the case.

SUPPLY.—CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES.

The House went into Committee of Supply on class I of the Civil Service Estimates, relating to public works and buildings. On the vote of £61,090 for the Houses of Parliament, a proposition made by

Mr. D. GRIFFITH to rearrange the seats in the House of Commons on the model of foreign legislative assemblies, so as to allow greater facilities for the grouping together of the different parties in the House, gave rise to a lively conversation.

Mr. HORSMAN complained that, under the present system, independent members like himself were denied the opportunity of sitting and consulting together.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in replying to Mr. Horserman, made an amusing speech, bantering the "independent" members and expressing his incredulity as to the existence of the "party" for which Mr. Horserman professed to speak.

The proceedings in Committee of Supply occupied the greater part of the sitting, and after a long and desultory discussion, embracing a great variety of topics, the following votes were agreed to:—£48,925 for Royal palaces; £105,437 for public buildings; £12,000 for furniture of public offices; £98,769 for Royal parks and pleasure gardens; £1485 for Embassy houses of Paris and Madrid; £3000 for British Consulate and Embassy House, Constantinople; £7525 for Westminster Bridge; £63,500 for new Foreign Office; £58,000 for site for public offices; £23,500 for probate court and registries; £27,070 for public record repository; £6000 for Nelson column.

The postponement of the vote of £116,000 for the Patent Office was moved by

Mr. BOVILL, who complained of the inadequate accommodation provided in the present office, pointing out defects in its management, and maintaining that the large surplus of fees paid by patentees should be applied to putting the establishment on a more satisfactory footing.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, in defence of the vote, stated that the present provision was merely temporary, and no comprehensive plan for securing more complete accommodation could be settled until the general question of the policy of the patent laws had been considered and determined.

After some discussion, the motion was withdrawn, and the vote was agreed to.

CROWN LANDS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved a string of resolutions on the Crown Lands Acts, as a necessary preliminary to the introduction of a bill for the better management of the land revenues of the Crown. Among other provisions, he explained that the bill would transfer the forestal rights of the Crown over Epping Forest to the Board of Works, and would give the management of all foreshores to the Board of Trade, and would make provision for the enjoyment of the estate of Claremont by the Queen during her life or pleasure.

The resolutions were agreed to after a short conversation.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ENGLISH CHURCH IN IRELAND.

Sir J. GRAY moved a resolution on the Irish Church in these words:—"That the position of the Established Church in Ireland is just cause of dissatisfaction to the people of that country, and urgently demands the consideration of Parliament." Sir John commenced a lengthy speech by disclaiming any wish to provoke an acrimonious discussion, or to give offence to individual members of the Church of Ireland, and pointed out the great social importance—apart from the money questions involved—or removing the feeling of religious inequality which was produced by the ascendancy of one Church over the rest. He contended that the Irish Establishment had failed politically and politically, and had accomplished no object for which it was imported into the country, quoting copiously from the census returns to show that it had neither succeeded as a missionary Church in winning over the Roman Catholic population nor had even held its own. After citing numerous passages from Spenser, Sir T. Davis, Dr. Mant, and other writers on the early history of the Establishment, to show the penal laws by which its first introduction had been protected, maintaining that the blame of these was due, not to the English Government nor to the Irish Parliament, but to the Church itself, he proceeded next to discuss the revenues of the Church and their allocation. The entire revenue of the Church he estimated at a little over £700,000, spread over twelve dioceses and 1510 benefices, and he mentioned numerous glaring instances of the disproportionate distribution of revenue and Protestant population. In 199 parishes he stated there was not a single Protestant, though there were 98,017 Roman Catholics; in 615 benefices there was an average population of twenty-three Protestants, and the cost of religious ministrations to them was £31 per family; while in 114 other benefices, containing a Roman Catholic population of 36,355, the Church revenues amounted to £178 per Protestant family. After quoting from speeches of Mr. Disraeli, Dr. Whately, and others in support of the object of his motion, and having repudiated with earnestness the desire to transfer one shilling of the Protestant Church revenues to the Roman Catholic priesthood, he concluded by arguing that this question lay at the root of all Irish grievances; and that Parliament was bound, both by honour and interest, to take it into immediate consideration.

Colonel GREVILLE seconded the motion, asserting that this was not a local but an Imperial question; and claiming for Ireland the same justice which had been conceded to Canada, Australia, and other colonies.

Mr. C. FORTESCUE, though personally regarding the resolution with cordial concurrence, pointed out that it was impossible for the Government to accept it unless they were prepared to follow it up by immediate action; and he maintained that public opinion, even in Ireland, was not yet sufficiently clear, strong, or matured to call upon them for that. Their opposition, therefore, to the motion at the present moment would not be founded on any grounds of equity or of permanent policy, but simply on considerations of time and circumstance. Speaking for himself alone, and not as the organ of the Government, he sketched out a mode of settling the question which involved the surrender by the Establishment of a certain portion of its revenues (to be replaced by voluntary efforts), which would be available for the advantage of the unenowled religion of the majority. He discussed some of the arguments by which the ascendancy of the Establishment was supported, disagreeing with them all, and, after enlarging on the vital importance of the question—which, he said, lay at the root of the Irish difficulty—he concluded an effective speech by expressing an earnest hope that to-night's discussion would smooth the way to an early and satisfactory settlement.

Mr. P. DAWSON opposed the motion, warning the House that in its consequences it menaced the securities of the Established Church of England.

Mr. P. UROUHART supported the motion.

The O'DONOGHUE expressed his disappointment with the decision of the Government not to deal with this question. He characterised the Irish Establishment as an unparalleled anomaly, and described the question at issue to be simply whether revenues granted to the pastors of the people should be enjoyed by those who ministered only to a small minority—600,000 out of 5,000,000—maintaining that the experience of centuries proved the utter failure of the Establishment as a missionary church. He ridiculed the fears of those who predicted all kinds of calamities from the disendowment of the Irish Church, reminding the House that its temporalities had already been curtailed; and claiming the Church revenues as the property of the nation to be applied to national uses. On the part of the Roman Catholics, he disclaimed all hostility to the Protestant clergy; what they complained of, he said, was the ascendancy of one creed, and what they desired was perfect equality, to be attained by doing away with all State endowments for the support of the clergy.

Mr. WHITESIDE vehemently denied that Ireland was a Roman Catholic nation, maintaining that the intelligence, wealth, and industry of the country were Protestant, and warned the House of the impolicy of attacking a Conservative institution at a moment when there was no force in Ireland capable of resisting the spirit of disaffection but the Conservative party. He stigmatised the motion as an attack on property and the Protestant religion, prompted by the hierarchical party; and went at great length into the history of the Union and Roman Catholic Emancipation to show that this country was pledged to the maintenance of the Establishment, and that the

Roman Catholics, by the p'deges of their Bishops in 1829, were precluded from attacking its property. In the same way, in tracing back the history of the Church's title deeds to her property, he referred to the events of the Plantation of Ulster and the Act of Settlement, and drew an eloquent picture of the services of the Irish Church in the cause of order, loyalty, and true religion.

Sir H. HOARE made some remarks in support of the motion, and the debate was adjourned, on the motion of Mr. ESMOND.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

Mr. D. GRIFFITH moved the second reading of the Postmaster-General Bill, the object of which is to allow the Postmaster-General to occupy a seat in the Commons.

Mr. CHILDERSON said the Government did not object to the measure, considering that, although it might be inexpedient as a general rule to require the Postmaster-General to be a member of the House of Commons, there was no necessity for continuing the existing disability which prevented her Majesty from appointing a member of that House to the office.

The bill was then read a second time.

VALUATION OF LANDS AND HERITAGES (SCOTLAND).

Mr. DUNLOP moved the second reading of the Valuation of Lands and Heritages (Scotland) Bill, the object of which was to render uniform the mode of assessing local rates in Scotland.

The LORD ADVOCATE opposed the bill, which, he argued, would, instead of being an improvement of the existing law, be a re-enactment of many grievances that had already been got rid of. He moved, as an amendment, that the bill be read a second time on that day six months.

Sir J. FERGUSON supported the bill, as it merely proposed to assimilate the law and practice of Scotland to that of England.

Some further discussion took place amongst the Scotch members, and, the House having divided, the bill was thrown out by 80 to 32.

VACCINATION.

Mr. H. BRUCE, in moving that the House go into Committee on the Vaccination Bill, explained that its object was the consolidation of the existing Acts relating to vaccination, and the introduction of certain amendments in the law for the purpose of establishing an efficient system of vaccination throughout the country.

Mr. HENLEY and Sir R. PEEL having pointed out numerous defects in the bill,

Mr. H. LEWIS said the defects were too many and too serious to be dealt with in Committee of the whole House, and moved that it be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. BRUCE consented to refer the bill to a Select Committee, but upon the express understanding that the Committee were not to interfere with the principle of the measure, which was the establishment of a compulsory and efficient system of vaccination.

The bill was then ordered to be referred to a Select Committee accordingly.

THE NEW COURTS OF JUSTICE.

In Committee of Supply a vote of £660,000 was taken for the purchase of the site for, and other expenses connected with, the erection of the new courts of justice.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Their Lordships met at five o'clock for the first time after the Easter holidays.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved the second reading of the County Courts Bill. He explained that its object was to abolish the offices of treasurer and high bailiff in the County Courts, which would effect a saving of £34,000 a year.

After some remarks from Lord Chelmsford, the bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE GOVERNMENT REFORM BILL.

On the order of the day being read for the second reading of the Representation of the People Bill,

A great number of additional petitions were presented in its favour, and several complaining of its incompleteness as regards the redistribution of seats.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in moving that the bill be read a second time, said he was anxious to supply some omissions which had been complained of in his former speech on introducing the bill. Since 1850 every Government had attempted to deal with this question, and he was bound to assume that they had all, including that of the Earl of Derby in 1850, done so in a spirit of sincerity; and he referred to the statement of Mr. Disraeli, in introducing the bill of that Government, who said that they were ready to consider the question with the view of strengthening and maintaining the institutions of the country. That was the object, that was the desire, of the present Government in asking the House to pass this bill; and although hon. gentlemen opposite might say, as they had a perfect right to do, that they had changed their minds and retracted their pledges, the country did not forget that such pledges had been given, and they formed a very material element in the reasons which must compel any Government to attempt to settle a question so long and so often postponed, and which, if longer postponed, would be fraught with extreme danger. What were the objections to the Government bill? First, that it gave political power to those who bore none of the cost of Government. He denied that, and showed that the working classes contributed much to the taxation of the country, even indirectly to the income tax, and if that were not admitted they must come to the views of Mr. Bright and the Liverpool financial reformers. The next objection was that the working classes would combine. He appealed to the working of the municipal franchise, and insisted that there was no proof that where the working classes were in a majority they combined together as such. Nay, in the very boroughs in which the working classes now had a majority there was nothing very formidable in their present representatives, and many of them even returned Tories instead of Liberals. He therefore besought hon. gentlemen opposite to bear in mind the experience of 1832, and not make the mistake the Tories made then, and, by opposing the bill, render themselves so unpopular as to deprive themselves of all political influence for at least a generation to come. Next it was alleged that the working classes were, by a natural process, attaining the position which they wished artificially to accelerate by this bill. He had waited anxiously for some proof of this process; for the figures undeniably showed that, taking away the scot and lot voters, in spite of the rise in wages and the cheapness of food and clothing, the increase in the £10 householders belonged to the middle and not to the working classes; for to live in a £10 house a working man must earn from £90 to £100 a year. He then proceeded to show that the bill would not effect a transference of political power to any class; and, thanking hon. gentlemen who waived their own opinions and agreed to support the Government in the view that they strongly entertained that it was better to dispose first of this question of the franchise, he repudiated warmly any idea of entrapping the generous confidence of their supporters. He gave a pledge to inform the House of their views with respect to the redistribution of seats, so that the two measures might be considered in reference to each other; for he had never said that they would not deal with any other portion of the question except the franchise until next year, but that they did not think there was time in the limits of an ordinary Session to do more, and certainly not in time for the new register to come in force this year. They believed that by this plan the task, not only of the Government, but also of the House itself, would be greatly simplified and facilitated. Having warmly rebuked Mr. Lowe for his denunciations of the labouring class, he besought the House to remember that the time was come when something more was required of it than professions of its readiness to consider the question. The time was come for deeds and not for words, and he besought them to be wise, but to be wise in time.

Mr. LOWE, in explanation, complained of the gross perversion of his words. He was referring to the notorious state of the existing constituencies from the records of the House itself.

Earl GROSVENOR moved, as an amendment, "That this House, while ready to consider, with a view to its settlement, the question of Parliamentary Reform, is of opinion that it is inexpedient to discuss a bill for the reduction of the franchise in England and Wales until the House has before it the entire scheme contemplated by the Government for the amendment of the representation of the people." The noble Lord said that, in moving this resolution, he was animated by honest motives and a sincere conviction that the course he proposed was a judicious one. Since he gave notice of the amendment he had been subjected to many violent attacks from the press, and from individuals, but he had not been deterred from doing what he regarded to be his duty. He urged that the conduct of the Government themselves was a complete justification for the course he had taken, inasmuch as they had already partially given way and intimated their willingness to lay bills upon the table with regard to other portions of their plan before going into Committee on the present measure. His own opinion was, however, that it would be unwise to consider any part of the subject until they could consider it as a whole. He denied that he had deserted his party, and charged the Government with having deserted theirs in allowing themselves to fall into the hands of hon. members below the gangway. He was not opposed to reform; on the contrary, he was prepared to support a moderate and safe measure. The noble Lord, on resuming his seat, was loudly cheered, but chiefly from the Opposition benches.

Lord STANLEY, in seconding the amendment, said that, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer had advised the House to be not only wise, but wise in time, he should be glad to learn at what period it was that the urgent necessity for haste first began to dawn upon the mind of the right hon. gentleman. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was a member of the Government of Lord Palmerston—a Government which came into office pledged to deal with the question of reform—and yet allowed the question quietly to drop. On the present occasion he (Lord Stanley) did not intend to enter into the details of the bill or to discuss its principles, but he should

confine himself to the proposition contained in the amendment—namely, that it was inexpedient to deal with the question except as a whole. The argument of the Government was that the questions of enfranchisement and of the redistribution of seats were separate and distinct, and that it was convenient to put one of them out of the way while they dealt with the other; but within the last few days there had been a distinct acknowledgment and admission that Parliament had a right to know what was proposed to be done with regard to the redistribution of seats before they disposed of the question of enfranchisement. But the Government made this proviso, "We must first have you pledged by voting for the second reading of this bill, and when you have done that we will reward your submission and confidence in us by explaining what our scheme really is." He thought a more open and ingenuous course would be to state at once what was proposed to be done in regard to the disfranchisement of boroughs and the redistribution of seats, for it was absurd to suppose that the Government were not quite as well prepared to make that statement now as they would be three weeks hence. He believed the real reason why the Government wished to separate the subjects into two distinct branches was a conviction that the House would not accept their measure as a whole. What the House really wanted was a guarantee that the same body which dealt with the question of enfranchisement should be able also to deal with the question of the seats; and a guarantee of that nature was impossible if the consideration of the two questions was to be separated by an interval of twelve months. He contended that the tendency of population was to centralise itself in the large manufacturing towns, whilst the small boroughs were either stagnant or not increasing. In common sense the question of redistribution was more pressing than the reduction of the franchise; the one was constantly increasing, the other rectifying itself; but the bill of the Government proceeded to aggravate the more pressing question of the two before it attempted to redress it. The House was asked, and such a demand was utterly without precedent, to abandon all control over the settlement of the other portions of the question into the hands of the Government which would be independent of a Legislature that was condemned by its own act. He warmly repelled the charge of having entered "into a dirty conspiracy," for the words meant nothing. He begged to remind Mr. Bright that he had not been unwilling on two occasions to enter into a similar combination against the Government of Lord Palmerston—first, on the Chinese War; secondly, after the Orsini plot. He denied that there was any similarity between this amendment and that of Earl Russell to the bill of 1859. This amendment was not, like that, fatal to the principle of a reduction of the franchise; but its object was to enable the House to command the whole question, and to discuss the effect of the bill and the future balance of power, not only with regard to the present constituencies, but what was a great deal more to the purpose, with respect to the constituencies to be created. The noble Lord concluded by seconding the amendment, amidst loud cheers from the Opposition.

M. P. W. MARTIN supported the bill, but protested against the inconsistent clause disfranchising the dockyard voters.

Mr. HORSFALL, in supporting the resolution, ridiculed the recent demonstrations at Liverpool. They were got up by a Liberal clique, with every adroit artifice, but without any real or hearty enthusiasm on the part of the great body of the inhabitants of that borough. He opposed the bill of the Government because he believed that it would have the effect of throwing all political power into the hands of the working classes and of increasing the expense of elections.

The MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON was willing to concede that Earl Grosvenor was actuated by honest motives in proposing the amendment, and he believed that his noble friend was consistent also, as he had opposed an extension of the franchise last year. At the same time, he thought Earl Grosvenor would have been more consistent if he had met the motion by a direct negative rather than seek to defeat it by a sidewind. He (the Earl of Hartington) contended that this was the first occasion when a real and practical measure of reform had been submitted since the bill of 1832, and if it were rejected the result would probably be the shelving of the question for many years to come. He denied that the bill would place a preponderance of political power in the hands of the working classes, and he altogether objected to the importation of the doctrine of class against class into the debate. He highly eulogised the conduct of the working classes, and disputed the possibility of so organising them as to induce them for selfish objects to seek the overthrow of all the other sections of the community. The settlement of the question was an object of far higher importance than the mere existence of a Government, and he asked the House to pause before they rejected a measure which, whatever its demerits, might be made the basis of settling the question for many years to come.

General PEEL opposed the bill, because he believed that, instead of being a final settlement of the question, it would unsettle everything, and would work most unsatisfactorily.

Mr. BANKS STANHOPE supported the amendment. He denied that the bill was an honest measure, and urged that it would not secure a satisfactory settlement of the question.

The debate was then adjourned.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1866.

THEIR WORSHIPS OF ST. PANCRAS.

"WHOM the gods doom, they first make mad." The truth of this old heathen maxim was never better illustrated than in the case of poor-law guardians and their underlings. They seem bent on provoking their own destruction, and so it is fair to presume that they are already demented. Not that local poor-law officials, as a rule, ever showed that they were much overburdened with wisdom; but what little common-sense they may have possessed seems to have utterly deserted them now. Notwithstanding that the press and the public have had to condemn their conduct day after day and week after week, they still continue to play fantastic tricks, at which, if angels do not weep, sensible men blush.

St. Pancras has been the scene of the latest display of the dementia with which poor-law officials are afflicted. Some weeks since, the Rev. Mr. Hillocks, a preacher, or "evangelist," as he prefers to be called, while visiting the St. Pancras Workhouse, saw a child laid out for dead which was still alive, and which was subsequently, notwithstanding that Mr. Hillocks compelled attention to the case, so neglected as to cause its death. These facts were made public through Mr. Hillocks's instrumentality; an investigation was made by Mr. Farnall; the person directly implicated was suspended; a Coroner's jury complimented Mr. Hillocks for his conduct; while a number of the guardians heartily abused him for interfering and exposing the malpractices of the workhouse officials. The consequence was, that Mr. Hillocks was denied access to the workhouse. Of this he complained in a letter to the *Times*; and at a meeting of the guardians the other day, called to consider other charges of neglect and mismanagement, the rev. gentleman was roundly taken to task for the statement, which was denied by the master, but with so much

fact is plain that Mr. Hillocks, having made himself disagreeable to the powers that be in St. Pancras, was not to be allowed to "spy upon them"—we quote the language used by their apologists—any longer. That is workhouse officials' notion of the right way to amend a fault. "Don't remedy the abuses of the establishment—conceal them," is the thought embodied in the whole proceedings. In the course of the meeting on Monday some curious facts were elicited. The medical officer, with one assistant and a dispenser of medicine to aid him, has 2000 inmates under his charge; 300 prescriptions a day are made up by one man, by the order of only one other man. Is this making adequate provision for the care of the sick poor? Can any medical practitioner give proper attention to 2000 pauper patients, and, we suppose, attend to a private practice as well, and yet do his duty to all? The thing seems simply impossible; and when guardians so grossly over-burden their officers with work, can we wonder that the poor are shamefully neglected, and that subordinates of all grades take advantage of the example set before them, and do even as their superiors, the guardians—"scamp" their duties? The faults of workhouse management, we maintain, originate with the guardians. If they did their duty in seeing that all their subordinates performed theirs—did they enforce the mandates of the Poor-Law Board as regards delinquent officials—the disgraceful revelations that are constantly emanating from our workhouses would speedily cease. But, when one board of guardians laughs at the orders of the Poor-Law Board, and another reinstates suspended officials, and abuses and obstructs the parties who have exposed workhouse malpractices, those malpractices will assuredly continue.

We received a letter the other day from a gentleman connected with the vestry of St. James's, and who says he is, "for want of a better, member of the Metropolitan Board of Works for that parish," in which we are roundly abused for doing a thing of which we were not guilty—namely, blaming the Metropolitan Board for the existing confusion in our street nomenclature. Now, we are not going to enter into any controversy upon *that* subject; the fact of the confusion, whoever is to blame for it, is sufficiently patent to all; but we do not hesitate to say that not a few gentlemen are members of local poor-law and other boards—for want of better. This, we frankly confess, is the fault not of the gentlemen who do serve upon these boards, but of the other ratepayers who *will not*. It is a common remark, which does not originate with us, that "the best citizens" will have nothing to do with parish matters. If this be true—and we fear it is—we can only say, "Pity 'tis 'tis true." What concerns all should be the work of all; and surely the public character for humanity and capacity in the management of local business is as much the affair of the "best citizens" as of others. Then why don't the "best citizens" take their fair share of the work, and put noisy incapables aside? They must either do so or consent to have local self-government seriously trenched upon, if not altogether abolished. Local abuses, and especially poor-law abuses, are becoming too glaring and intolerable to be endured much longer. A remedy of some sort must be applied; and, as it seems hopeless to get local boards, as at present constituted, to act humanely and rationally, and as the best citizens won't, or at least don't, step in to do their duty, the only alternative seems to be that great bugbear of bumbledom—centralisation. Better centralisation, say we, than a continuance of the prevailing scandals.

We can assure the correspondent above referred to, and others who, like him, think we and other writers for the newspapers merely follow a fashion in "abusing all existing boards and vestries," that to constantly find fault is no grateful task, though it is a necessary function of the press. We would infinitely rather praise than blame; but to blame where blame is due, is the only means of obtaining the rectification of abuses; and therefore is it that we and our brethren are enforced to play the part of censors. We, at all events, would rejoice exceedingly were "existing boards and vestries" so to conduct themselves as to do away with the fault-finding portion of our occupation. But how can this be—how can we play the optimist—so long as such abuses exist as those sanctioned, or at least tolerated, by nearly every board of guardians in the metropolis? Mend your ways, Messieurs the "existing local boards and vestries," and you shall hear no more "abuse" from newspaper "scribes." But till you do, we must "peg away" at you.

RIOTOUS PROCEEDINGS IN A CHURCH.—On Sunday St. Bride's Church, Dublin, was the scene of a painful manifestation which closely approximated to a riot. The Incumbent, the Rev. Wm. Carroll, is considered to have Puseyite leanings, and from innovations which he has introduced he has become obnoxious. On Sunday, when proceeding with the service, he was hooted, groaned, and hissed, and interrupted with such exclamations as "No Popery!" "Down with the confessional!" followed by rounds of Kentish fire. The greatest excitement and confusion prevailed, and when he was about giving the communion the shouting and tumult increased, and he narrowly escaped violence. The police ultimately had to be called in, and it was not without trouble that the service was concluded.

THE LATE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND.—A communication has been addressed by the solicitors of the Duke of Northumberland to Mr. Riccalton, the secretary of the Royal Naval Benevolent Society, in which it is stated that his Grace intends very shortly to transmit to him, for the use of the society, the sum of £5019 13s. 6d. The circumstances which have given rise to this munificent gift are as follows:—The late Duke of Northumberland, for some years previous to his death, did not receive his half-pay as an officer of the Royal Navy. When it came to the knowledge of the present Duke that the executors of the late Duke were entitled to receive, and would receive, the arrears of that half-pay, he decided that, as soon as in the administration of the affairs the sum should be paid to him by the executors of the late Duke, he would appropriate the whole of it amongst such charitable objects connected with the naval service as he believed would be most in accordance with the wishes of the late Duke, and the present Duke has named the Royal Naval Benevolent Society, of which the late Duke was a vice-president, as one of the objects to participate in this fund.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY AND THE ROYAL FAMILY left Windsor on Tuesday for Osborne, where they arrived in the evening.

THE CROWN PRINCESS OF PRUSSIA gave birth to a daughter on Thursday morning.

PRINCESS MARY OF CAMBRIDGE is in a short time to be married to Prince de Teck, son of Duke Alexander of Wirtemberg.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA, on Good Friday, went through the annual ceremony of washing the feet of twelve poor old men and as many old women. The eldest of the group was ninety-six years of age and the youngest eighty-five.

THE COUNT DE CHAMBORD has gone into mourning for the late Queen Amélie.

LORD ATHLUMNEY (formerly Sir W. Somerville) is to be raised to the British Peership by the title of Baron Meredith.

THE COST OF THE NOTTINGHAM ELECTION PETITION is at the rate of about £300 a day, or £1 a minute.

MR. HERBERT, M.P. for Kerry, has instituted a subscription among the gentry of that county to help the fund which its tenant-farmers are collecting with the view of purchasing back the estates of The O'Donoghue, M.P., and presenting them to their old owner.

KING THEODORE, at the request of Mr. Rassam, has released all the European prisoners in Abyssinia, and ordered their immediate departure from the country.

MR. COLE RIDGE, Q.C., has resigned the recordership of Portsmouth; and Mr. Poulsen, of the Western Circuit, has been appointed his successor.

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT has agreed to a revision of its treaties with European Powers.

MR. BERNAL OSBORNE has issued an address to the electors of Waterford county, in anticipation of a dissolution of Parliament.

THE DISTURBANCES IN THE LEBANON have been completely quelled.

A NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY is to be one of the features of the Paris Exhibition of 1867.

A NEW VOLUME OF POEMS by Mr. Robert Crompton, and dedicated by permission to Mr. Charles Dickens, will shortly be published.

LORD RICHARD GROSVENOR, M.P. for Flint, has announced his intention of supporting Earl Grosvenor's amendment on the Reform Bill, as he thinks it "highly inexpedient to consider such a bill without having the whole scheme laid before the House of Commons."

THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT has organised a complete system of meteorological observations according to the system of the late Admiral Fitzroy, but with some improvements and at a less expense.

PRIVATE P. BUTLER, of the London Irish Rifle Volunteers, who was accused of threatening to shoot the Prince of Wales at Brighton, has been struck off the roll of the corps.

A NEW ARRIVAL SHED, 300 ft. long, is about to be built at the Southampton terminus, in consequence of the increase of traffic at that station.

A GERMAN SURGEON in Paris was recently bereaved of his wife by death. His friends assembled to console with him, and found him engaged in dissecting her body!

THE ERUPTION in the Bay of Santorini continues to exhibit its phenomena in a noisy way, without any danger to observers for the present.

REFORM MEETINGS continue to be held in different parts of the country. The feeling in favour of the Government measure is general.

THE LIFE-BOATS OF THE NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION have been instrumental, during the past year, in saving 714 lives. Since the establishment of the institution, in 1824—a period of forty-two years—14,980 lives have been saved by its agency.

THE HANGING COMMITTEE of the Royal Academy for the forthcoming exhibition will be composed of Messrs. Cope, Horsley, and T. Faed, who, together with Mr. J. F. Lewis, form the council of the year. The president and secretary are ex officio members of the council.

THE EASTER BANQUET was held at the Mansion House on Monday evening. There was a brilliant gathering. The Duke of Cambridge represented Royalty, and Mr. Goschen represented the Ministry.

A GOVERNMENT MESSENGER has been dispatched to order Mr. Rawson W. Rawson, at present Governor of the Bahama Islands, to assume the administration of the government of Jamaica on the return of Sir Henry Storks to Europe.

LORD CRANBOURNE disputes Mr. Gladstone's statement that the imputation that some hon. members "treated the working men as an invading army" was warmly accepted as a perfectly true description of the views taken by those hon. gentlemen, and says the assertion that such assent was expressed "is a pure creation of Mr. Gladstone's imaginative memory."

EARL RUSSELL has sent to Senhor Jose de Vasconcellos e Sousa, Portuguese Minister in Rio de Janeiro, a gold snuffbox, richly ornamented with brilliants, and having on the lid a portrait of Queen Victoria, as a testimony of consideration of his services on the occasion of the mediation of Portugal in the Anglo-Brazilian question.

JAMES GRIMSHAW, the jockey, has been suspended from riding till the Epsom Summer Meeting, in consequence of his refusal to ride Prodigal at Warwick. "Jemmy," in the course of the investigation, boasted that he kept valet, to whom, it appears, he pays £100 a year besides travelling expenses and other "unconsidered trifles."

THE AREA OF THE UNITED STATES, according to Land Office measurements, is 3,002,013 square miles. This is equal to 1,921,288,233 acres of land, of which 1,400,549,033 are public lands for sale by the Government Land Office. Only one fourth of the country is inhabited to any great extent by civilised people.

THE JOURNEYMAN CARPENTERS AT EXETER and two or three other places in the west of England are out on strike in consequence of the masters having refused to accede to the demand for an advance in the weekly wages of 3s. The average pay at present is 2ls. The Amalgamated Society of Operative Carpenters and Joiners have agreed to allow every man on strike 12s. per week.

A CURIOUS MENAGE has just been established in the Jardin des Plantes. An iron cage has been placed a young lioness, an Algerian wild boar, and a little dog. This last is quite the master, the lioness generally amusing herself with teasing the boar. When, however, the lioness goes too far, the dog interferes and re-establishes order.

THE INCUMBENT OF NORTHMOOR, near Bristol, who is alleged to be an extreme "ritualist," had decorated his church for Easter Sunday service. On the preceding night, however, the church was entered, the decorations were destroyed, the clergyman's "ribbons," as the Bishop of London would say, were cut to pieces, and the sacramental wine was drunk. On the Sunday morning the church was crowded to suffocation by a mob of ruffians, some of whom coolly lighted their pipes and began to smoke, while others raised the most discordant noises, singing "We won't go home till morning," &c.

INSTALLATION OF MR. CARLYLE AS LORD RECTOR OF EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.

THE recent appearance of Mr. Carlyle in Edinburgh, to be installed as Lord Rector of the University, excited an immense degree of interest in the Scottish metropolis. A correspondent, writing on the evening of the day of installation, says:

"A vast interest among the intelligent public has been excited by the prospect of Mr. Thomas Carlyle's appearance to be installed as Lord Rector of the University of Edinburgh. With the exception of the delivery of his lectures on Heroes and Hero Worship he has avoided oratory; and to many of his admirers the present occasion seemed likely to afford their only chance of ever seeing him in the flesh, and hearing his living voice. The result has been that the University authorities have been beset by applications in number altogether unprecedented—to nearly all of which they could only give the reluctant answer, that admission for strangers was impossible. The students who elect Mr. Carlyle received tickets, if they applied within the specified time, and the members of the University council, or graduates, obtained the residue according to priority of application. Ladies' tickets to the number of 150 were issued, each professor obtaining four, the remaining thirty being placed at the disposal of Sir David Brewster, the Principal. And the 150 lucky ladies were conspicuous in the front of the gallery, having been admitted before the doors for students and other males were open. The hour appointed for letting them in was kept precisely—it was half-past one p.m.; but an hour before it, despite occasional showers of rain, a crowd had begun to gather at the front door of the music-hall, and at the opening of the door had gathered to proportions sufficient to half fill the building, its capacity, under severe crushing, being about 2000. When the door was opened the students rushed in as crowds of young men only can and dare rush, and up the double stairs they streamed like a torrent, which, torrent, however, police-men and check-gates soon moderated. I chanced to fall into a lucky current of the crowd and got in among the first two or three hundred, and got forward to the fourth seat from the platform, as good a place for seeing and hearing as any. The proceedings of the day were fixed to commence at two p.m.; and the half hour of waiting was filled up by the students in throwing

occasional volleys of peas; whistling, en masse, various lively tunes; and in clambering, like small escalading parties, on to and over the platform to take advantage of the seats in the organ gallery behind. For Edinburgh students, however, let me say that these proceedings were singularly decorous. They did indulge in a little fun when nothing else was doing, but they did not come for that alone. Any student who wanted fun could have sold his ticket at a handsome profit, for which better fun could be had elsewhere. I heard among the crowd that some students had got so high a price as a guinea each for their tickets, and I heard of others who had been offered no less, but had refused it. And I must say, further, that they listened to Mr. Carlyle's address with as much attention and reverence as they could have elicited less applause and laughter.

"Shortly before two, the city magistrates and a few other personages mounted the platform, and, with as much quietness as the fancy of the students directed, took the seats which had been marked out for them by large red pasteboard tickets. At two precisely, the students in the organ gallery started to the tops of the seats and began to cheer vociferously, and almost instantly all the audience followed their example. The procession was on its way through the hall, and in half a minute Lord Provost Chambers, in his official robes, mounted the platform stair; then Principal Sir David Brewster and Lord Rector Carlyle, both in their gold-laced robes of office; then the Rev. D. R. Lee, and the other professors, in their gowns; also the LL.D.'s to be, in black gowns. Lord Neaves and Dr. Guthrie were there in an LL.D.'s black gown and blue ribbons; Mr. Harvey, the President of the Royal Academy, and Sir D. Baxter, Bart.—men conspicuous in their plain clothes. Dr. Lee offered up a prayer of a minute and a half, at the 'Amen' of which I could see Mr. Carlyle bow very low. Then the business of the occasion commenced. Mr. Gibson—a tall, thin, pale-faced, beardless acute, composed-looking young gentleman, in an M.A.'s gown—introduced Mr. Carlyle, 'the most distinguished son of the University,' to the principal, Sir David Brewster, as the Lord Rector elected by the students. Sir David saluted him as such, thinking, perhaps, of the time when, an unknown young man, Thomas Carlyle wrote articles for Brewster's Cyclopaedia, and got Brewster's name to introduce to public notice his translation of Legendre's Geometry. Next, Professor Muirhead, for the time being the Dean of the Faculty of Laws in the University, introduced various gentlemen to the Principal in order, as persons whom the senate had thought worthy of the degree of LL.D., giving a dignified but not always very happy account of the merits of each. There was Mr. Erakine, of Linlathen, Mr. Carlyle's host for the time being and often previously, an old friend of Irving and Chalmers, himself the writer of various elegant and sincere religious books, and one of the best and most amiable of men. If intelligent goodness ever entitled anyone to the degree of LL.D., he certainly deserves it; and when I say this, I do not insinuate that on grounds of pure intellect he is not well entitled to the honour. He is now, I should think, nearer eighty than seventy years of age; a mild-looking, full-eyed old man, with a face somewhat of the type of the Earl of Derby's. There was Professor Huxley, young in years, dark, heavy-browed, alert and resolute, but not moulded after any high ideal; and there was Professor Tyndall, also young, long and lithe of limb, and nonchalant in manner. When his name was called he sat as if he had no concern in what was going on, and then rose with an easy smile, partly of modesty, but in great measure of indifference. Dr. Rae, the Arctic explorer and first discoverer of the fate of Sir John Franklin, who is an M.D. of Edinburgh, was now made LL.D. He is of tall, wiry, energetic figure, slightly baldish, with greyish curly hair, keen handsome face, high crown and sloping forehead, and his bearing is that of a soldier—of a man who has both given and obeyed commands, and been drilled to stand steady and upright. Carlyle himself was offered the degree of LL.D., but he declined the honour, laughing it off, in fact, in a letter with such excuses as that he had a brother Dr. Carlyle (an M.D., also a man of genius, I insert parenthetically, and known in literature as a translator of 'Dante'), and that if two Dr. Carlyles should appear at Paradise mistakes might arise.

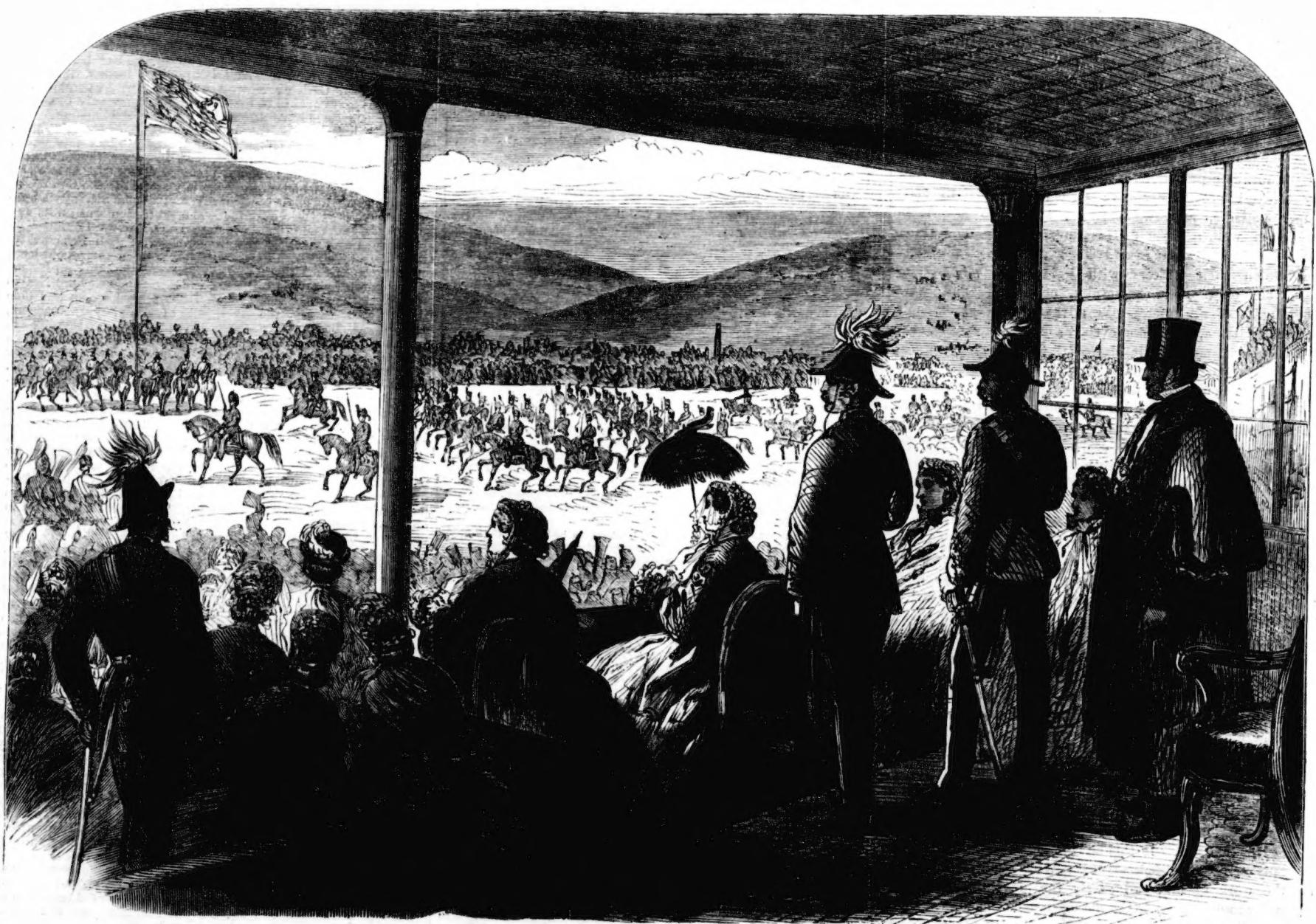
"After all the LL.D.'s had heard their merits enumerated, and had had a black hood or wallet of some kind, with a blue ribbon conspicuous in it, flung over their heads, Principal Brewster announced that the Lord Rector would now deliver his address. Thereupon Mr. Carlyle rose at once, shook himself out of his gold-laced rectorial gown, left it on his chair, and stepped quietly to the table, and, drawing his tall, bony frame into a position of straight perpendicularity not possible to one man in five hundred at seventy years of age, he began to speak quietly and distinctly, but nervously. There was a slight flush on his face, but he bore himself with composure and dignity, and in the course of half an hour he was obviously beginning to feel at his ease, so far at least as to have adequate command over the current of his thought. He spoke on quite freely and easily, hardly ever repeated a word, never looked at a note, and only once returned to finish up a topic from which he had deviated. He apologised for not having come with a written discourse. It was usual, and 'it would have been more comfortable for me just at present,' but he had tried it and could not satisfy himself, and 'as the spoken word comes from the heart' he had resolved to try that method. What he said in words will be learned otherwise than from me. I could not well describe it; but I do not think I ever heard any address that I should be so unwilling to blot from my memory. Not that there was much in it that cannot be found in his writings, or inferred from them; but the manner of the man was a key to the writings, and for naturalness and quiet power I have never seen anything to compare with it. He did not deal in rhetoric. He talked—it was continuous, strong, quiet talk—like a patriarch about to leave the world to the young lads who had chosen him and were just entering the world. His voice is a soft, downy voice—not a tone in it is of the shrill, fierce kind that one would expect it to be in reading the Latter Day pamphlets. There was not a trace of effort or of affectation, or even of extravagance. Shrewd common-sense there was in abundance. There was the involved disrupted style also, but it looked so natural that reflection was needed to recognise it that very style which purists find to be un-English and unintelligible. Over the angles of this disrupted style rolled not a few cascades of humour—quite as if by accident. He let them go, talking on in his soft downy accents, without a smile; occasionally for an instant looking very serious, with his dark eyes beating like pulses, but generally looking merely composed and kindly, and, so to speak, father-like. He concluded by reciting his own translation of a poem of Goethe,

The future hides in it good hap and sorrow.
And this he did in a style of melancholy grandeur not to be described, but still less to be forgotten. It was then alone that the personality of the philosopher and poet were revealed continuously in his manner of utterance. The features of his face are familiar to all from his portraits; but I do not think any portrait, unless, perhaps, Woolner's medallion, gives full expression to the resolution that is visible in his face. Besides, they all make him look sadder and older than he appears. Although he be three score and ten his hair is still abundant and tolerably black, and there is considerable colour in his cheek. Not a man of his age on that platform to-day looked so young, and he had done more work than any ten on it."

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW AT BRIGHTON.

To the very full account of the volunteer review at Brighton which we published in our last week's Number, it is unnecessary to add anything, save to say that our Engravings this week represent the Princess of Wales and her suite on the Grand Stand during the march past of the troops, and the scene presented on the Downs during the violent storm of hail which occurred in the course of the operations. The shower scattered the crowds in all directions for shelter; some of the more hardy spectators, however (as shown in our Illustration), stood their ground manfully, and, with the help of umbrellas, were enabled to "bide the pelting of the pitiless storm."

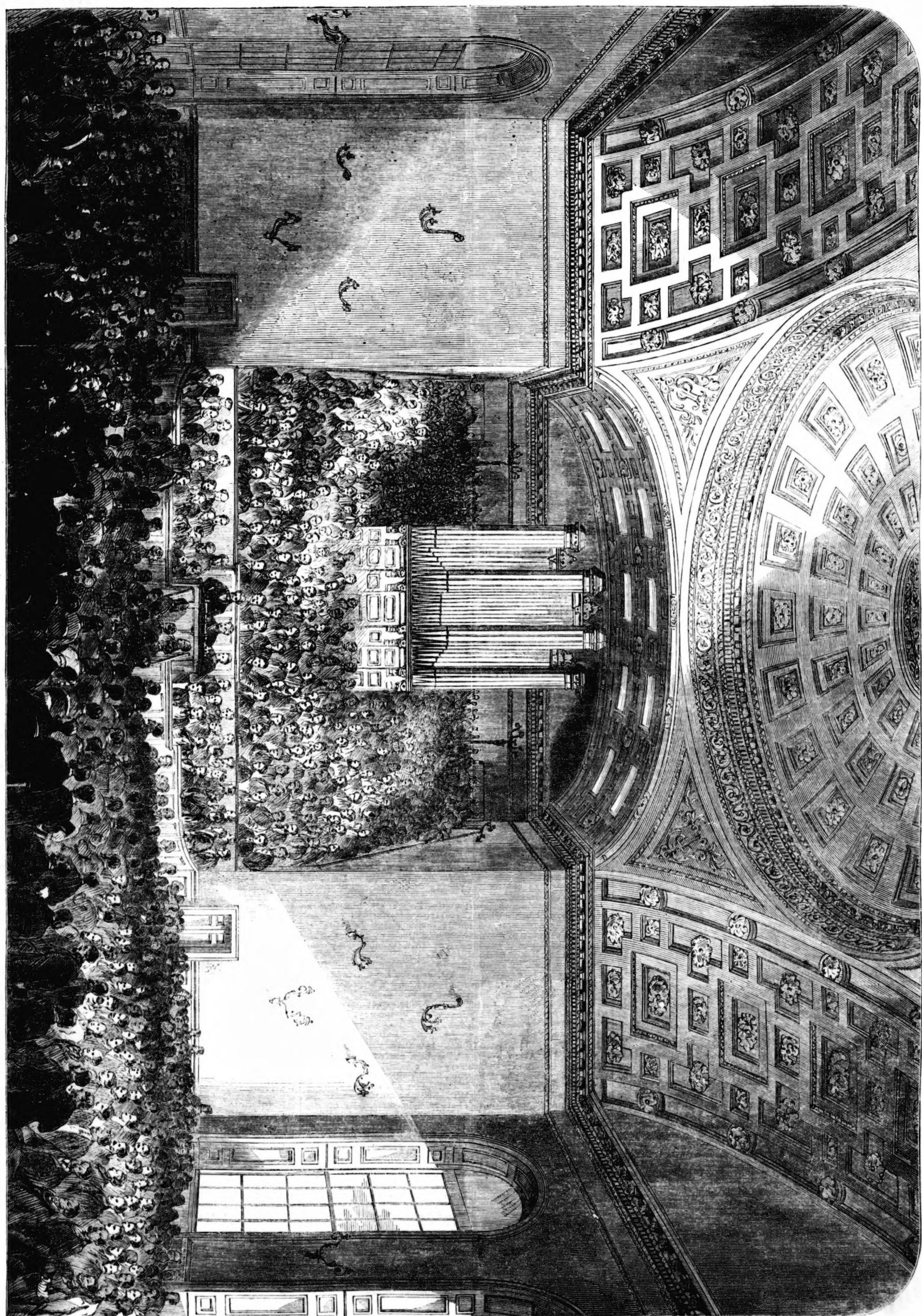
THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW AT BRIGHTON.



THE PRINCESS OF WALES AND SUITE DURING THE MARCH PAST.



HAILSTORM ON THE DOWNS.



MR. CARLYLE DELIVERING HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS AS LORD RECTOR OF EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

BEFORE the vacation it was confidently, boastfully, and triumphantly asserted by men who ought to know, that Earl Grosvenor would take over with him forty Liberal members. Now, if he could do this, it is clear he would defeat and overthrow the Government. I never believed this assertion, though it came to me with an air of authority calculated to deceive the best informed. There was something suspicious in the round number: why not forty-one or thirty-nine? Moreover, with no little knowledge and experience, I had gone over the list of Liberal members, and carefully weighed and tested them all as one tests and weighs current coin, and could not discover anything like forty light of weight and false in the ring. Further, I have heard such boastings aforetime, and remember vividly how empty they proved to be, when the *experimentum crucis* of a division came to be made. Up to the very hour of the division on the Danish question, Colonel Taylor confidently asserted that he had the game in his own hands, and I believe that he really thought he had, and was not undeceived until he discovered, half an hour before the doors were shut, that he had not more than 300 in the House—a number which he knew could not win. The simple fact is, that the Conservative whips are too sanguine. They hear of a Liberal member grumbling, and they at once put him down as a probable friend of theirs, who will either vote against the Government, or do the next best thing—not vote at all; whilst in the case of others who openly and angrily condemn the measure, of them he has no doubt. But all this grumbling is mere froth, which gets blown away as the time for action approaches. You can never be sure that a man will desert his party till the Serjeant-at-Arms has shut the door. I have seen doubtful men hang about the door hesitating to the last whether they should vote, and then, just as the door was on the swing, rush in. During the recess, the Liberal whips have, of course, taken every possible means to ascertain their strength, going over the list of Liberal members one by one. And I am told by an authority which never yet deceived me, that Earl Grosvenor can take with him no such number as forty, nor even the half of it; and if this be so—and that it is so you need not doubt for a moment—the Reform Bill will pass the second reading by a good majority. And, if it should pass this ordeal, I do not believe that on any of its main provisions it will be damaged in Committee. There may be changes made. The savings bank clause, I think, is doomed, as it ought to be; for the possession by A. of £50 in the savings bank is no proof whatever that he is in intelligence or respectability superior to B., who has none. A. may be single and B. married; or A. may have no children, whilst B. may have his quiver full of them. And, again, would you disfranchise a man because, compelled by calamity like that of the cotton famine, he withdraws his deposits from the savings bank? And, lastly, I know not how you can sufficiently guard against fraud. The lodgers clause, too, may be modified; but these are not the principles of the bill. The main clauses are the £7 franchise for boroughs and the £14 for counties; and these are believed to be quite safe.

How the hare was to have been cooked I need not describe at length, seeing that now there is no probability that it will be caught. Generally, however, these were the arrangements which had been suggested: Whig Government of course to go out; Conservative Government, with Liberal-Conservative or Conservative-Liberal admixture, to be formed; Earl Derby to be Premier without a portfolio, he being too unsound in health to take department work; Disraeli to be First Lord of the Treasury; Sir Stafford Northcote Chancellor of the Exchequer. It was confidently expected that Lowe, Laird, and Horsman would join this hybrid Ministry; and that, notwithstanding the nominal majority against it of some fifty or sixty in the House of Commons, it would, by the aid of some forty "Palmerstonians"—such is the phrase—be able to carry on. To those who know the House of Commons, and are outside the hallucination of party, it is astonishing how such expectations could be formed. That Horsman might have joined the coalition is probable, very improbable that Laird would venture on board such a crazy craft; and quite certain, I think, that Lowe would not. For think for a moment what the right honourable member for Calne is. He is against the extension of the suffrage; but otherwise he is one of the most radical of Reformers and one of the most plain spoken, impulsive, and intractable: except on this franchise question, there is in him no more sympathy with Conservatism than there is between Bright and Henley, or Walpole. Witness that plain-spoken, manly, Radical speech of his on the Oxford Tests Bill of Mr. Coleridge. He went far beyond the author of the bill, and made the old Conservatives hold their breath with astonishment by the boldness of his opinions. No; Robert Lowe will never join a Conservative Government, I think; but, if he were to do so, he would shiver the crazy ship to pieces before he had been aboard a month. However, no chance will be offered to him. There will be no Conservative or hybrid Government. The forty Palmerstonians are a myth. The Liberal party, which, when the Reform Bill first appeared, hung but loosely together, was, so to speak, more or less in a state of solution, has, by the agitation in the provinces, conferences between members and their constituents, the bold stand taken by the Government, &c., become consolidated; and the bill will pass, and all the fine pictures which Hope and Fancy had painted upon the closed curtain of the future have been blown clear away. I learn that the Liberal whips confidently expect a majority of nearly thirty on the second reading. Mr. Bouverie, you see, has withdrawn from the *tiers partis*, and will vote for the bill. A nudge which he got from his Scotch constituents has settled his wavering mind. Some five or six Conservatives will, it is said, vote for the measure or not vote at all. Meanwhile, canvassing is going on with great activity, and, no doubt, every possible influence will be used on both sides to make or keep men straight.

It is curious to note, as some quidnuncs at the clubs delight to do, the straits and inconsistencies to which men are driven who wish to defeat a measure which they are yet afraid openly to oppose; in other words, who desire to conceal feelings which it would be inconvenient to enounce plainly. This is especially the case as regards reform in Parliament. For instance, great point against change used to be made of the seeming indifference of the people to extension of the suffrage. Now, when the people have spoken out pretty plainly, a cry is raised about intimidating Parliament; and efforts are made to undervalue the import and spontaneity of the meetings that have been held and to throw discredit upon the genuineness of the petitions sent up. Agitation was demanded as proof of earnestness; when agitation comes, it is denounced as intimidation. Public meetings and petitions were desiderated; when both are forthcoming, we are told the meetings were packed or contemptible in numbers, and that the signatures to the petitions are mainly fictitious. Rather stale and weak devices these, surely. Then, the working classes are denounced in one breath, and the denunciation is withdrawn in the next. Mr. Lowe is a notable instance of this. The whole gist of his anti-reform speeches was that further extension of the suffrage was dangerous, and dangerous because of the character and tendencies of the parties on whom an extension would confer votes—that is, the working classes. And yet Mr. Lowe is very indignant at being so understood, and tries to get out of the difficulty by a quibble about the actual words he used in a particular sentence in a particular speech. But, whether his words have been misquoted or not, there can be no mistake about the grounds and drift of Mr. Lowe's argument. He opposes reform because he distrusts the people, and he distrusts the people because he believes them to be unwise and vicious. That is the meaning of his argument, if it has any meaning at all. It will not do to say, as Mr. Lowe tries to say now, that he denounced certain of the existing, and not the prospective voters, for the question did not concern the present electors, but other persons whom it was proposed to admit. To be consistent, if Mr. Lowe meant electors on the register when he talked of imprudence, drunkenness, venality, &c., he ought to have advocated, in order to get rid of the influence of these persons, either a further extension of the suffrage or a disfranchisement of existing voters. Besides, Mr. Lowe thoroughly approves of the House of Commons as it is at present constituted, and therefore must approve of the electors who choose it. These inconsistencies, which are probably

due more to temper and difficulties with his constituents than to flaws in the right hon. gentleman's logic, are noted and commented upon with much gratulation by certain politicians. Lord Cranbourne, too, is anxious to stand well—or, rather, not to stand ill—with these same working classes, for he repudiates the idea that he and his friends look upon the masses of their fellow-countrymen seeking political privileges as "an invading army." "We do no such thing," he says in effect; "we deny the imputation. There is no question of invading armies in the matter. We don't fear these honest, working fellows. The notion exists only in Mr. Gladstone's imaginative memory." So my Lord Cranbourne, too, would conciliate the "most sweet voices" of the non-electors. But there are those who remember that in the last speech he made on the subject before the recess, Lord Cranbourne denounced the Government bill as tending to transfer the "taxing power" from its present possessors to the non-represented classes; and it is freely remarked upon that the class to which Lord Cranbourne belongs—the "landed men" of the country, who dominate in Parliament now, and therefore hold the "taxing power"—have in times past exercised that power for their own benefit, or what they fancied to be for their own benefit. It is not so *very* long since the corn laws were repealed, or real property made subject to succession duty, and several other little matters were amended, which showed that the landed men were quite aware of the importance of the taxing power. These things are remembered still; and political gossips wisk aside and say, "As ye yourselves have measured, so you expect to have it measured to you again; ye judge others by your own standard." Better to have kept quiet about the "taxing power."

I have received a letter from a Mr. D. Deacon animadverting on a remark made by an old Conservative friend of mine on the extension of the franchise, and quoted by me in your last week's Number. Mr. Deacon says that "the franchise must not be further reduced; those who want it, if they have a grain of self-respect in them, will raise themselves into it." And this, he says, they can do by paying "3s. 6d. per week for house accommodation." Where did my correspondent learn arithmetic, I wonder? A rental of 3s. 6d. per week does not amount to ten pounds a year; and, as the present qualification is based upon rating, and not upon rental, and as the rated value of a house is usually three fourths only of its actual rental, we must add one fourth, besides taxes in proportion, in order to get at the real expenditure incurred ere a vote can be obtained. Doing this, it follows that at least between 5s. 6d. and 6s. per week must be paid in rent and taxes by all voters in boroughs. This does not look a large amount to pay for house accommodation; and perhaps would be a mere trifle to Mr. D. Deacon; but it is a very considerable item, nevertheless, in the expenditure of many working men, whose average earnings, probably, do not amount to more than four times the sum, or about 25s. a week. If ill-feeling exists "between classes" in this country, as Mr. Deacon insinuates, but which I do not believe, I suspect it is caused more by the exclusiveness of men of Mr. D. Deacon's stamp than by "such shallow reasoning" as that of my friend, the "old Conservative."

Since the death of their famous brother the Misses Leech have been quietly and unostentatiously devoting themselves to a labour of love—the mounting and framing of all the sketches and tracings by the lamented John Leech that had been carefully treasured up by one or another of them apparently from a very early date. The collection is a most interesting one. The number of drawings, although they only represent probably about a fourth of the work he did, is something astonishing. As a rule, they are very slight; but they in most cases represent a drawing which was subsequently made and finished, occasionally most elaborately. Besides the sketches for *Punch* and the illustrated works which were adorned by his facile pencil, there are many little coloured scraps which were dashed off at a very early age. They for the most part indicate the school in which young Leech acquired the facility which made him great in after years. Traces of the influence of Seymour may be detected, and also some indications of a study of and admiration for the grotesqueries of the old *Comic Annuals of Hood*. A drawing of a stage coach, sketched and coloured by Leech at the age of six, is a mere marvel of early-developed talent. There is an immense amount of spirit, and not an entire absence of accuracy about it. The maturing of Leech's style may be marked in this fine collection. It is possible to note the progress he made, almost step by step, from his early drawings in *Punch*—"The Poor Man's Friend," or "The Children of the Mobocracy." From these pictures we can follow Leech through the vagaries of "The Brook Green Volunteer" to the more highly elaborated "Briggs" series, and on to the deer-stalking studies of late almanacks, or the large-eyed, long-ringleted, and demonstratively-ankled young hours of his latest period. To my mind, this collection is more interesting and does more justice to Leech's powers than the exhibition of his water-colour works. It was as a draughtsman on wood that Leech was pre-eminent, and it is of his engraved works that these jottings and outlines form a monument which we hope may some day become in its entirety the property of the nation.

A dramatic entertainment by members of the 1st Surrey Rifles Volunteers took place a few evenings ago at their new head-quarters (of which the corps have just reason to be proud). The performances, comprising the comedietta "John Dobbs" and the farce of the "Area Belle," were well received by a numerous and fashionable audience. The proscenium and scenery (which the corps owe to Mr. Lepard) were admirable, and the performance did great credit to the 1st Surrey histrions. The band of the regiment attended, and by their excellent playing contributed greatly to the evening's entertainment.

One would almost believe that the French are becoming a "hosy" race, like ourselves. Besides weekly organs of "*Le Sport*," they have now a monthly review called *Le Centaure*, which is a chronicle of sport, the chase, agriculture, and art, with coloured illustrations. The editor is M. Leon Cremière, the photographer to the Emperor. In the number for March there are no less than six photo-lithographs, five of which are coloured. They are all excellent specimens of the art, and the letterpress is commendable in the extreme. *Vive le Sport!* Let me trust that M. Leon Cremière may find his gallant venture profitable, for the *Centaure* must cost "a pot of money" to bring out. The illustrations alone are worth the price—which, by-the-way, I may as well mention is six francs.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

"Much Ado About Nothing" has been produced at the Sr. JAMES'S, with very excellent scenery and carefully-appointed decorations. The comedy is, throughout, intelligently played; the most serious shortcomings, both as to conception and execution, being the personations of Benedick and Dogberry, by the two experienced actors to whom those characters have been intrusted. Mr. Charles plays Don Pedro pleasantly enough, although it would be more effective if he were more in earnest; and the same remark may be made of the Claudio of Mr. Clayton. Mr. Robson's Verges is a clever sketch, but it is a trifle overdrawn. Though an old man, Verge would hardly have been appointed watchman because his back was at right angles with his legs. The Friar of Mr. Gaston Murray was a highly-commandable performance. Miss Buffon looked a charming Hero, but did not feel Claudio's public renunciation of her with sufficient intensity. The effect of Mr. Frank Matthews' Dogberry was marred by the frequent laughs with which the actor interpolated his speeches. Dogberry was not the man to laugh. He was too solemn, too profound, too self-important, arrogant, and stupid. Mr. Matthews also falls into the common errors of addressing his audience and of being conscious of the humour of the lines he is delivering. The speech beginning "Dost thou not suspect my place?" was spoken rather to the occupants of the stalls and the pit than to Conrade or to the watchman. The error of self-consciousness applies also to Mr. Walter Lacy, who "posed" to his auditors constantly. Despite of an agreeable manner, pleasant voice, full command over feature, and a perfect knowledge of the conventional points of the part, this favourite actor cannot count Benedick among his numerous successes. His love for Beatrice had no passion in it; no abandonment or enthusiasm. It

is strange that he should not catch a spark of the "sacred fire" that burns in the eyes of Miss Herbert after she has overheard the conference between Ursula and Hero. Were I to attempt a description of all the beauties of this lady's latest triumph I should overrun the limits of space assigned to me. To borrow an Americanism, Miss Herbert's Beatrice is "real grit." She did not laugh hysterically, and cross the stage, and flirt a fan for the purpose of convincing the audience that she was in high spirits, as was the custom in the good old tawdry days of the British drama; her mirth sprung from her intellect; and Beatrice, as played by Miss Herbert, is the sort of noble, brilliant woman to inspire any man with a true love; and it occurred to me that Prince Pedro is thoroughly in earnest when he says, "Will you have me, lady?" I trust that Miss Herbert will for the future confine her attention to high comedy, and attempt melodrama no more, for melodrama is for artistes of an inferior grade. By so doing she would render a service to the drama and a kindness to the few who care for or consider it an intellectual pleasure.

The Easter novelty at ASTLEY'S has been the production of "Der Freischütz," which, being an opera, it is, of course, not my province to criticise. I will merely mention that the English libretto has been entirely rewritten by Mr. John Oxenford, and that the apparitions in the famous incantation scene are exhibited with the aid of the far-famed optical illusion of Professor Pepper of the Polytechnic; and pass on to Mr. Burnand's burlesque of "Boabdil-el-Chico"; or, *The Moor the Merrier*, which is founded on a Moorish legend, called "The Two Sisters." The extravaganza is very smartly written. One of the chief comic effects of the piece is a parody on the song of "I would I were a bird," in which every character imitates the action of the motion of a bird's wings, which, however mild a joke on paper, has an irresistibly ludicrous effect upon the stage. The scenery is gorgeous, as also are the costumes. The principal parts are well acted by Miss Mary Willmott, Miss Louise Laidlaw, Miss Caroline Parkes, Miss Minnie Sidney, Miss Rachel Sanger, Mr. E. Garden, and Mr. George Honey; and, altogether, "Boabdil-el-Chico" at Astley's is a "four-horse" success.

The extreme length to which my account of the Easter entertainments has run compels me to postpone my notice of Mr. Watt Phillips's new drama of "Theodora," which was produced at the SURREY on Monday last.

ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.

Mr. and Mrs. German Reed and their invaluable colleague, Mr. John Parry, have appeared in a new entertainment written for them by Mr. Burnand, and called "Our Yachting Cruise." The scene, which is the work of Messrs. Grieve, is not only a piece of excellent painting, but remarkable for its verisimilitude, is on the schooner Nautilus. In the distance is the island of Malta, and between the island and the yacht flows a fresh, tumbling, breezy-looking sea. The characters presented to the public are Mr. Wyldbury (Mr. German Reed), the owner of the yacht, a jovial sort of athlete; Elise (Mrs. German Reed), the widow of a French pilot, and stewardess to the Nautilus; the Honourable Adolphus Nix (Mr. John Parry), a very short-sighted young gentleman, who is perpetually mislaying his eye-glass, and who gets himself into very awkward scrapes in consequence; Mrs. Wyldbury (Mrs. German Reed), a lady of a certain temper; Bob Stayfall (Mr. German Reed), a real seaman; Mr. William Switzerley (Mr. John Parry), a dramatic author of drawing-room celebrity, who is writing the libretto of an opera to be called "Hamlet," and who is constantly taking homeopathic globules; Mr. John Green Gage (Mr. German Reed), a poor young fellow who is suffering from a complication of mother-in-law; Miss Maudolina Thrumb (Mrs. German Reed), an interesting orphan, who lips in numbers; Mrs. Macnab (Mrs. German Reed), a Scotch lady, learned in tartans, and mother-in-law number one of Mr. John Green Gage; Mrs. Major Domo (Mr. John Parry), a military widow, and mother-in-law number two; Mrs. Bodger (Mr. German Reed), an elderly person, in constant difficulties with the English language, who, among other malapropisms, calls London "the convolvulus of the world," and mother-in-law number three; and Mr. Thrumb (Mr. German Reed), an original composer, whose works invariably remind the hearer of the most popular morceaux of the most popular operas. In the complications arising from the differences of temper, temperament, interest, &c., our readers are advised to seek the Gallery of Illustration, when they will see how Mr. Wyldbury intends giving an amateur theatrical entertainment on board his yacht, how Mr. John Green Gage supposes that he has committed wilful murder, how three mothers-in-law cannot agree and can differ, and how admirably Mr. John Parry looks as the ghost in "Hamlet." Mr. Burnand's libretto is very ingenious, smart, and spirited, and is illustrated by some very agreeable music. Mr. and Mrs. Reed and Mr. Parry are as happy in their present "illustrations," as the programme calls them, as in any of their former impersonations. "Our Yachting Cruise" is followed by Mr. John Parry's new domestic scene, "The Wedding Breakfast at Mrs. Roseleaf's," in which Mr. Parry plays, sings, and acts with more brilliancy than ever—if that be possible.

I hear that Miss Virginia Gabriel has composed an original opera di camera for the Gallery of Illustration. The libretto is by Mr. Alfred Thompson, a gentleman of considerable reputation "in society" as both author, artist, and actor.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

At the Polytechnic this Easter the programme is unusually strong. I am sorry to find that Professor Pepper, who is, and has been for years past, the very mainspring of the institution, has been so seriously ill that fears for his recovery were more than once entertained. He is now, however, in a fair way of restoration to health. The novelties this year, although lacking the personal superintendence of the Professor, were evidently under his ghostly influence, and are as attractive as usual. There is a "second optical lecture," containing all sorts of illusions, which quite do away with the old-fashioned notion that "seeing is believing." You can believe all you see there if you like, but the chances are that you will come away with a very wrong idea of things in general if you do. The lecture (given by Mr. King) is illustrated by some beautiful experiments and effects, among which are the kaleidoscope (shown on the disc), the cherubs floating in the air, and some Shakespearean tableaux. Then the "old Polytechnic favourite," Mr. Matthews, the prestidigitator (there are no conjurors now!), gives a clever entertainment, and there are other lectures both instructive and amusing. The new dissolving entertainment is founded upon Scott's poem of "The Lady of the Lake," which is admirably said and sung by Mr. Henri Drayton and chorus—that is, the poem is said and Sir Henry Bishop's music is sung in a highly creditable manner. Altogether, the sightseer may spend not only a very agreeable but, if he choose, a very profitable hour at the Polytechnic, where all kinds of tastes may be gratified, thanks to the skilful management of Professor Pepper, who I trust will speedily be able to resume his post in person as well as in spirit.

EGYPTIAN HALL.

Colonel Stodare has made an addition to his feats of legerdemain which is likely to be as attractive as the Sphinx, or the magic basket trick, or any other of the tricks in his numerous répertoire—if that term be allowable. This latest novelty is called the Marvel of Mecca, or something of that sort. The curtains open and discover a couch, placed upon a platform. Colonel Stodare introduces a lady to the audience, and the lady reclines on the couch. The operator, that is, Colonel Stodare, then proceeds to pin the lady's clothes round her feet, so that all her drapery is about on the same level as her waist. He then places a common walking-stick in her right hand, and walks around the couch to show you that the couch and the lady are entirely unconnected with any machinery in the wall. He then takes the couch from under the lady, and the walking-stick from her hand; and she is seen seated in the air, without any visible support whatever. Around her, under her, and about her, nothing can be seen but atmosphere. It is an excellent trick, and will doubtless bring many to the Egyptian Hall, which, by-the-way, between Colonel Stodare and Mr. Arthur Sketchley's entertainment, is filled nightly. It should not be forgotten that Colonel Stodare is now shot at once a day, and that he

catches the bullet on a silver salver. He has revived the old gun trick, which he performs very cleverly with a pistol.

MRS. YELVERTON'S READINGS.

"The Honourable Mrs. Theresa Yelverton"—I quote from the programme—commenced a series of readings, at the Hanover-square Concert Rooms, on Friday last. The pieces selected were Tennyson's "Locksley Hall" and the "May Queen," which formed the first part of the reading; and the same poet's "Lady Clara Vere de Vere," and Longfellow's "Excelsior," and a selection from "Hiawatha." When Mrs. Yelverton appeared upon the platform she was warmly greeted. She seated herself at a desk and at once began reciting. She was excessively nervous—so nervous that her emotion was apparent to her audience, who endeavoured to reassure her by repeated plaudits. Mrs. Yelverton gathered strength as she proceeded; and, as "Locksley Hall" contains plenty of well-known allusions to faithlessness in love, desertion, and contempt for the "conventionalities," which the lady gave with considerable personal animus, it was received with marked approval. "The May Queen" was less successful. "Lady Clara Vere de Vere," which is sarcastic and contemptuous in tone, was the best effort of the evening. The lines—

That mark the caste of Vere de Vere!

and

And let the simple yeoman go!

were delivered with excellent emphasis, and were highly applauded. Beautiful as is "Excelsior," it is not sufficiently dramatic for recitation; and the same remark applies to "Hiawatha." Mrs. Yelverton's appearance created considerable excitement. Her name has been so long before the public that, doubtless, ordinary curiosity as well as sympathy will make many persons form a wish to see one who has passed through such sad and exceptional suffering.

THE LOUNGER AT THE STUDIOS.

WHEN the catkins begin to appear on the willow, when the cry of "early primroses" first resounds in the streets, or ever the swallows skim the Serpentine, or the lilacs burst into blossom, a forewarning of approaching May wakes up the Lounger, and he sets his face east, west, north, and south, seeking out studios wherein are struggling into full bud the works which in accomplished blossom shall adorn the walls of the Royal Academy in leafy May.

It is a pleasant trip; for studios are delightful places to haunt. With sombre backgrounds of oak or leather, dimly gilt and tinted, there are such kaleidoscopic foregrounds—such scraps of rare-coloured velvet, beloved by their owners for very treasures of half-tones and reflected lights—such delicate webs from the East, thin as cobweb but richly soft to the touch, like ghosts of satin—such feathers—such odds and ends of colour and quaintness—such veritable Paradises for the eye. And then, too, there are such glimpses of artistic life and character. Here is a studio adorned with frescoes by half a dozen different hands; in another there are some grotesque caricatures of the schools of the day; a third is noble apartment of cedar with fine hangings.

But the Lounger must quit generals for particulars, and give a résumé of the various works which, by the time this is in print, will, probably, be stowed away, with countless others, within the walls of the Royal Academy in Trafalgar-square.

Some of the most familiar of the R.A.'s will be missed from the walls this year, or will only be represented by not very important canvases. Report says, on good authority, that Mr. Millais and Mr. Elmore will not exhibit at all. Mr. Frith's picture of "Uncle Toby and the Widow"—not a particularly novel theme—is to be moderate in size. Mr. Ward's "Leicester and Amy Robsart" will, probably, be greater in magnitude than merit. Mrs. Ward takes an incident in the life of Bernard Palissy. Mr. O'Neil paints "The Death of Raffaello" (it will, probably, not be mistaken for a posthumous work of the great painter); and Mr. Philip gives a Spanish scene—douanas and a padre. It is also rumoured that we shall have two fine portraits from his skilful brush. Mr. Goodall has selected a subject from sacred history—"Hagar and Ishmael," Mr. Armitage also going to the same source, but choosing from the New Testament—"Joseph and Mary Seeking for their Child in the Temple." Mr. Leighton sends "Brides Sacrificing to Venus before Marriage"—a large canvas which is likely to attract great attention, especially by the painting of the various animals introduced. Mr. Cooke has several sea-views and a clever study of "Marine, Stores."

The president, it is stated, will exhibit some very fine portraits painted in his best style—one of an old lady especially being spoken of highly. Sir Edwin will not fail to put in a strong appearance, in spite of the lions. His brother, Mr. Tom Landseer, disgusted probably at the gross blunders of the *Times* in a recent article on engravings, has laid down the graver and caught up the brush. He sends a very imaginative picture of "The Witches' Glen," and a humorous illustration of Gay's fable of the goat and the monkey-barber. Mr. Faed will send some of his Scottish lassies. Mr. Sant will exhibit some of his charming portraits of children, and an excellent subject-picture from "Enoch Arden," one of the quarrels between the two lads described in the beginning of the Laureate's last poem. Mr. Creswick will not be absent with his charming transcripts of nature; nor will Mr. Stanfield fail to put in an appearance.

Mr. Sandy, everybody will be disappointed to hear, has no picture ready, though he has several fine works in various stages of progress in his studio. It may be mentioned here that he is one of the artists spoken of as likely to be elected an Associate. There are half a dozen vacancies to be filled up, and Messrs. Marks, Orchardson, Pettie, Prinsep, and Armitage are also named as probable A.R.A.'s.

Mr. Orchardson's picture this year represents an abbe and nuns in conclave; Mr. Pettie's the capture of a suspected witch. Mr. Burgess has chosen a Spanish fair for his picture; and Mr. Lucy selects an incident in the life of Hampden, when he and Cromwell were about to emigrate, but were prevented by an Order in Council forbidding their ship to sail. Mr. Erskine Nicol exerts his humorous powers upon an Irish rent-day. Mr. Marks gives us "My Lady's Page in Disgrace," thrust into the stocks kept on the premises; "A Visit to the Notary's," a would-be bride and bridegroom settling the preliminaries at the lawyer's; and (it is to be hoped) a little picture of Cowper and his hares in the garden at Olney, a charming painting. Mr. Leslie has painted a damsel in the costume of the end of last century walking in a moated garden; a very pleasing composition.

Mr. Calderon will be triply represented—by two scenes of French provincial life, and a splendid picture of "Her Most Puissant Grace"—a tiny princess going in procession with her suite. Mr. Yeames has hit upon a new and striking subject—"The Visit of the Spanish Ambassadors to the Court of Elizabeth after the Massacre of St. Bartholomew," with a splendid opportunity for contrast between the mourning Court and the resplendent Embassy. Mr. Walker has been hard at work on a long canvas representing a number of boys bathing in a stream. Report speaks very highly indeed of the painting, and report speaks truly, we think. Mr. Hodson sends in a clever composition representing a Jewess accused of witchcraft appealing for protection to a Duke and Duchess holding a Court.

Mr. Leader will be represented by two noble views—one of a lake, the other of a stream. Mr. V. Cole gives a quiet evening by still water and near an English homestead. Mr. H. Moore will probably attract great attention by his admirable painting of an oily sea under a sultry sky. Mr. F. Walton will be represented by a view in a beech-wood. Mr. E. A. Pettitt by "The Matterhorn."

Our space will not permit more than a hasty mention of the following works which, it is to be hoped, will greet us in May at the Academy:—"Malvolio," by Mr. E. C. Barnes; "Aux Armes," by Mr. Tourrier (two soldiers disturbed in the midst of a game of cards by the trumpet-call); "Evening," by Miss M. E. Edwards (a girl with a glowworm); "Casuals," by Mr. Goddard (a number of stray dogs at the Islington Refuge); "A Timber Cart," by Mr. Beavis; "A Prisoner of War," by Mr. Fitzgerald (a little boy asleep on his captor's cloak by the watch-fire); "Troopers on the March," by Mr. F. Weekes; "Lady Jane Grey," by Mr. Wybord; "A

Flirtation," by M. White (a Zouave paying attention to a bonne); "Children at Grace Darling's Tomb," by Mr. C. Nicholl; "The Plea of the Prisoner's Wife," by Mr. Morten (a lady trying to prevail on a Roundhead sentry to let her see her husband); "A Lady and Parrot," by Mr. A. Thompson; and "A German Interior," by Mr. Henley.

With this glimpse behind the curtain our readers must rest satisfied until May opens the doors of the Academy for them. We think we have catalogued enough varieties to raise expectations of a good exhibition; and a good exhibition, we venture to think it will be, although one or two familiar names be missed from the catalogue, and one or two well-known styles from the walls.

Literature.

Letters on England. By LOUIS BLANC. Translated from the French by JAMES HUTTON, and revised by the Author. 2 vols. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.

In reviewing England, M. Louis Blanc has this advantage over other foreigners who have attempted the task, that he has lived long enough amongst the people to know something about them; besides which, he brought with him, or has acquired, not only a brilliant capacity for observation, but a mind singularly unbiased. Such men as Texier, Assolant, and even Esquiro, are not worthy any grave attention; and the really important French literature concerning England is political rather than social. From across the Atlantic, since the genuine amiability and enthusiasm of Washington Irving, we have received much ferocious commentary, which was about as sensible as its style was ornate—too savage not to provoke annoyance, and too petty to go to war about. Nathaniel Hawthorne, who even then was worth hearing, was at best a mixture of poetry and spleen; and we do not altogether seem to satisfy M. Louis Blanc. "Letters on England" is a critical newspaper-kind of English history from early in 1861 to early in 1863. But it is not a Parliamentary history: England is something more than St. Stephen's, Westminster. However, M. Blanc has many clever and interesting chapters concerning the British Constitution generally and what may be called national subjects—for instance, the Liberty of Coalition, Neutrality of the Government between Workmen and Masters, A Debate upon the English Constitution, The Syrian Question, The Ionian Islands, England an Aristocratic Republic, &c. Our public men, sometimes on the occasion of their death, come in for fair and courteous treatment, and such papers as "Palmerston Attacked by Cobden" and "England Scolded by Bright" are amusing representations of squabbles. But, to explain the general subject in the fewest words, it will be enough to say that there is something of everything, and that the newspaper element is well represented. The interest of the book is great; we are, in a larger sense than that intended by Burns, "seeing ourselves as others see us;" and, though the majority of M. Blanc's opinions and descriptions are sensible and graphic, the Frenchman's love of brilliant effects constantly leads him to exaggeration and other errors, which are simply ludicrous. On June 1, 1861, he gambols away, pleasantly, on the national love of Epsom races. "A man in rags came to my door; he was carrying about some flowers in a basket, which he prayed me to buy of him. The poor man's appearance touched me. His face so pale, his voice so broken by emotion, his eyes so full of entreaty! No doubt, he had left at home a sick old mother, a wife in the family way, children hungering for their daily bread—who could tell? He said to me 'It's true, Sir, I have not a farthing, and to-morrow is the race-day,' How could I resist such a pathetic appeal?" Here, surely, is a piece of deliberate making-up; but many people might be glad to know where M. Blanc is to be found on or before the 23rd of May. Further down, he says that the English people only care for horse-racing for the sake of the eating and drinking—national drinking and patriotic indigestion; but he says that this is only a taunt, because a "certain ultra-Saxon newspaper" had a day or two before levelled some taunt against the French for their military reviews, &c. M. Blanc, after an elaborate and sensational letter against the use of the British gallows, simply thinks it would be "worthy of France, that generous country, where, as the first step towards the abolition of capital punishment, the principle of extenuating circumstances has been introduced, to do away with a form of chastisement which, &c.;" and he seems to forget how many shades we have in criminal death before we come to actual murder; and also, that at least one half of society is against the gallows, and the other half in a very wavering condition. But no; it is English, and therefore wrong. Such observations, and there are many, will cause more regret or amusement than anger. We recommend the "Letters," despite some blots which should have been erased.

On the Cam. Lectures on the University of Cambridge in England. By WILLIAM EVERETT, M.A., Trin. Coll. Cam. London: S. O. Beeton.

This volume contains a series of lectures, delivered in Boston, U.S., by the son of that Mr. Everett who whilom represented the United States at the Court of St. James's, and who sent his son to study at one of our great national Universities. The younger Everett seems to have imbibed a thorough love for his alma mater; for, throughout all his book, we find no trace of the feeling which is usually supposed to actuate Americans in relation to England and English institutions. On the contrary, Mr. Everett exhibits a hearty appreciation of Cambridge teaching, Cambridge men, and Cambridge manners. He is not, of course, a mere blind eulogist—he sees faults where faults exist; but he perceives a great deal more to like than to dislike; and he states his opinions and relates his observations in a genial, gentlemanly, and pleasing style. Altogether, the book is a very pleasant one, with which Englishmen, and Cambridge men in particular, have every reason to be satisfied. As Mr. Everett commends Cambridge as a model for imitation by American Universities, we commend Mr. Everett's book and the spirit in which it is written as models for the imitation of British authors who aspire to write about America.

Fun. New Series. Vol. II. London: Fun Office, Fleet-street. This, the second volume of the new series of *Fun*, edited by Mr. T. Hood, is fully equal to the first volume of the series noticed by us some time ago. The editor has succeeded in maintaining the spirit of the publication admirably; and his staff of writers and artists have ably seconded his efforts. An amusing preface well introduces the volume, many of the readers of which, as well as the Speaker of the House of Commons, will occasionally be left "splitting" over it.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

Of the magazines which have reached me late the *Popular Science Review* is the most interesting. But it is useless to write a catalogue of its contents. Your readers, Mr. Editor, will be much better pleased with a short extract. If I were to ask a good many of them what connection there was or could be between telescopes and cobwebs, they would laugh at me; but, look here:—

ARTIFICIAL COBWEBS FOR TELESCOPES.

The telescopes used in engineering operations are provided with cross-wires of delicate spider's web; but, as these frequently become broken, and cannot be easily replaced in a short time, the following substitute has been suggested. The threads are made of glass, and may rapidly be prepared in emergency:—Take a thin slip of window-glass, and heat it at the centre in the flame of a lamp. When the glass is re-hot, the strip may be pulled apart, and two pieces with pointed ends are formed. Each of these is to be heated in the flame until a small button has formed on the end, and, whilst they are still hot, the two buttons are to be brought into contact. If the two are now pulled quickly apart, a thread will be produced, the fineness of which will vary according to the softness of the glass and the rapidity with which the hands are separated. A very little practice will enable anyone to manufacture a thread of sufficient fineness for use in a telescope when it would be impossible to procure a spider's web.

Every man to his taste; but this is, to my mind, far more agreeable reading than a third-rate novel.

Mr. Bonamy Price is again as clear as water and as pleasant as wine in writing of "Bank-notes" in the *Shilling Magazine*. The proprietors may be surprised to hear that there are actually intelligent reading people in London who do not know of the existence of their magazine. One or two of such people asked me this very day what was the peculiarity of the *Shilling Magazine*. I was obliged to say that it was magazine without any peculiarity of design, so far as I could see—only another magazine. It is a great misfortune when a magazine has not a distinctly planned character of its own. Personal accidents will always give a serial some sort of specialty; but that is not enough.

Once a Week, while better as to its woodcuts and as to the stories, is sacrificing to variety and general quality some of its distinctiveness. At least, I think so. It is a nice magazine; but why does it admit such "amateurish" writing?

The *Churchman's Family Magazine* is a number of fair average merit. This is one of the serials which have a special character, and it keeps it.

The same is true of the *Monthly Packet*, which is always worth reading, and even worth studying, for the *indicia* which it contains of what is going on in certain circles of "religious" people. The most interesting part of the present number lies, perhaps, in the correspondence department, in which there is a very curious discussion going on about the duty of fine ladies to put up with the innocent vulgarities of people who are only respectable—for the sake of benefiting the respectable folks by counsel, example, and so on. I have made a note of this discussion, and advise the speculative reader to do the same.

People have a notion that "serious" magazines are dull and stupid. Most "serious" magazines contain dull and stupid things; but nothing can be further from dulness than *Good Words*. There is no lady writing novels in any of the magazines who can be ranked with Mrs. Oliphant. Her "Madonna Mary" leads off in this periodical; and the other contents are admirably varied and interesting. How is it people do not make this obvious reflection—"Serious" magazines cannot admit "sensational" fiction; so they are thrown upon the more exciting aspects of science and of the facts of life. These veins are accordingly worked with persistent care by such magazines, and the contents are usually interesting in consequence. It is *a priori* likely that a "serious" magazine would contain some pleasant reading. The probability is sometimes contradicted, but not by any means always.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE returns show that the disease is rapidly dying out. The number of animals attacked in the week ended March 31 was 3936, against 4704 in the previous week. Three or four weeks previously the number was over 12,000.

FRYSTON HALL, near Pontefract, the residence of Lord Houghton, narrowly escaped destruction by fire a few days ago. A beam which ran into one of the flues in the centre of the house was ignited, and, but for the prompt action of the household, assisted by Mr. Baker, the African traveller, and other guests of his Lordship, the hall must have been burnt down.

LIVES OF THE ARISTOCRACY.—With the aid of "Debrett's Peerage and Baronetage" we have arrived at some interesting facts. It is known that the general average of human life in the British Islands is about 33 years. It is therefore worthy of note what effect good living and other accessories of wealth have in preserving life. In 1865-6 there died fourteen peers, whose united ages amounted to 931 years, or an average of little over 66 years each, just double the general average. The oldest (Viscount Combermere) was 93, and the youngest (Baron Kingsale) 38. In the same period there died forty Baronets, whose total span of life was 2623 years, or an average of 65 each. The two oldest (Sir J. H. Palmer and Sir Thomas Staples) were 90 years of age each; and the youngest (Sir F. D. Legard) was 32. But, most remarkable of all, there died thirty-eight Knights whose ages amounted to the total of 274 years, or the remarkable average of 73 each. The oldest (Sir W. F. Austen) was 91 years of age, and the youngest (Sir R. M. Bromley) 32. All who value long life had therefore better be knighted at once. It seems as if knighthood were the *elixir vita*.

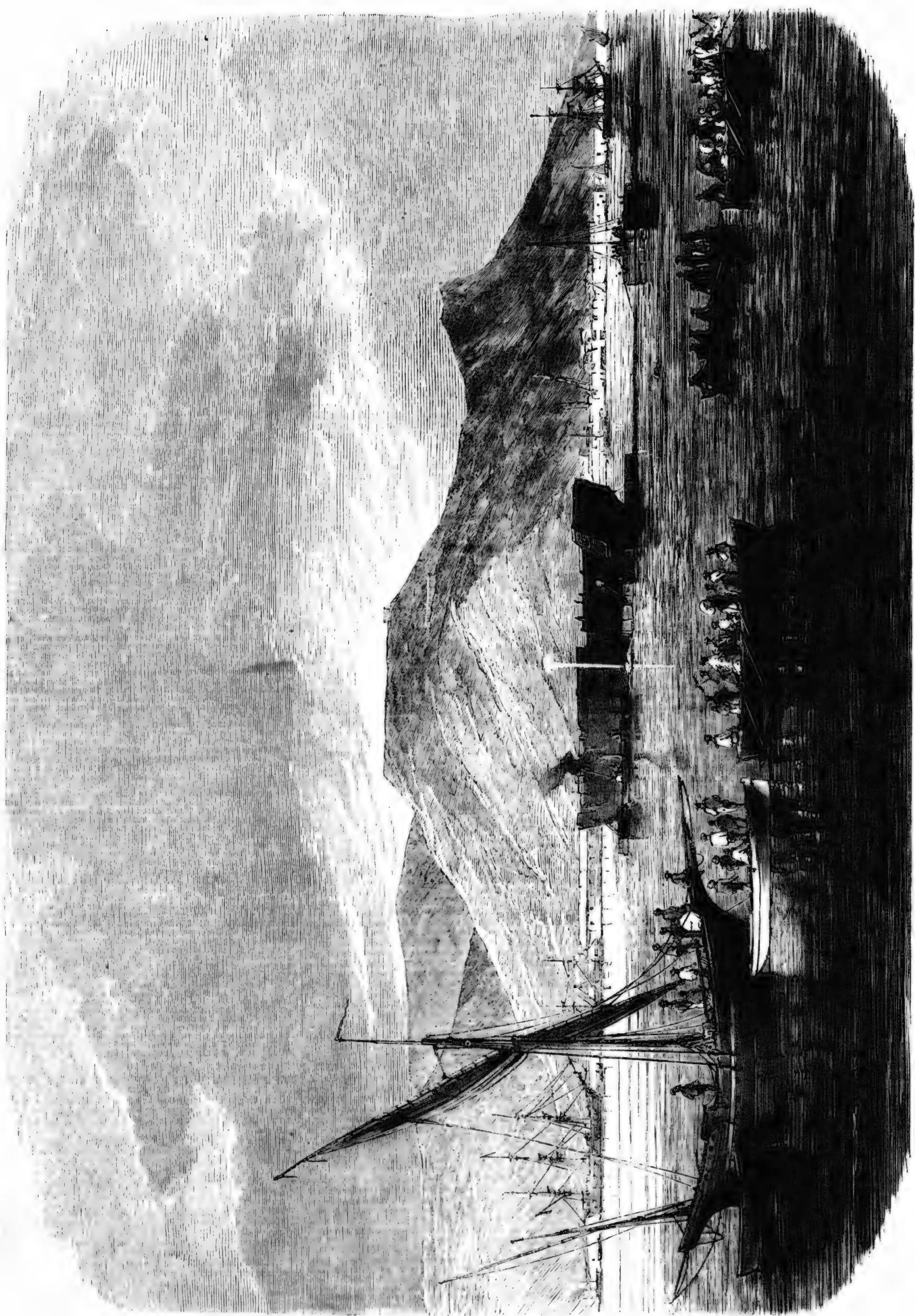
DOUBLY FATAL DUEL IN AMERICA.—An American duel, or shooting fight, of a most shocking and fatal character, recently came off at a hotel in Carson City, Nevada, arising out of some old dispute between the parties immediately concerned in the state Senate. One of the witnesses examined before the Coroner gave the following description of the murderous affair:—"Barnhart walked around and behind my chair, and placed his hand on a chair near Mr. Peasly, and said to Mr. Peasly, 'Why didn't you fight me last year at the Glenbrook House?' Peasly hesitated a moment, and then said, 'I don't know; are you always on the fight?' Barnhart, assuming an erect position, said, 'Yes, at the same time drawing his revolver and leveling it at the head of Peasly, who moved his head on one side very quickly, and exclaimed, 'You don't want to murder me, do you?' Barnhart appeared to draw his pistol back towards himself, and then pointed it at Peasly again and fired. The instant he fired, Peasly arose from his chair and advanced toward Barnhart, when Barnhart fired again. Peasly clasped his arm across his breast, staggered a little, and then sprang towards Barnhart, but fell on his knees, at the same time taking hold of Barnhart, who struck him on the head with his pistol as fast as possible; Peasly then rose to his feet, throwing himself against Barnhart, forcing him into a small room behind; Peasly was apparently knocked down just inside the door of the little room. I then saw him rise to his feet in the door, Barnhart having his arm about Peasly's neck, striking him with what I supposed to be his six-shooter. Peasly then exclaimed, 'Don't let him murder me. What are you doing?' or something of that kind. John C. Lewis then sprang towards them, and, I think, took the handle of the pistol from Barnhart; I stepped up to them, they still being clinched, and said to Barnhart 'That will do—you have shot him through.' Peasly at this time staggered back from Barnhart into the bar-room, when Barnhart said, 'Don't let Peasly shoot me,' at the same time stooping and picking up the barrel of his pistol. I took hold of the barrel and he let go of it. At this time, or at the time Mr. Lewis and I took hold of the parties, James Morant also took hold of Barnhart. As I retired to the counter, expecting to see Peasly fall, Peasly exclaimed, 'My God! I am shot through and through,' and instantly straightened himself up and drew his revolver. He then made a movement toward Barnhart, who was stepping back into the door of the room referred to, and fired his pistol at Barnhart, who was then in the room, Peasly sprang towards the door, thrust the muzzle of the pistol through the door, and again fired. He then forced the door open, stepped inside, and fired a third shot. I then walked quickly away from the room, in search of Mayor Jones and several other gentlemen. I found them at the Sazarac, and told them, hurriedly, what had happened, and they and myself returned to the Ormsby House, where I saw Peasly lying on the floor. Some one said he was breathing. I then went to the card-room, where I saw Barnhart lying on the floor gasping. I returned to Peasly and opened his shirt. While I was doing so he seemed to revive. He took me by the hand, drew me toward him, put his lips to my ear, and whispered, 'Take a horse and go for my brother Andy.' I immediately started for Virginia and obeyed his request. On my return, this morning, I saw him a corpse."

EXPERIMENTS WITH TORPEDOES IN THE HARBOUR OF TOULON.

OUR Engraving represents some recent experiments made with flying torpedoes in that part of the harbour of Toulon known as Castigneau, a full description of which was recently given in our columns.

About a hundred persons, mostly engineers and officers of marine or artillery, were present to witness the spectacle, and a frigate, named the *Vauhan*, had been provided by the Government for the purpose of being attacked by the new destructive agent. It is stated that while the torpedo will operate with terrible effect on the vessel against which it is directed, there is no danger whatever to those who employ it.

The spur which contains the explosive matter is solidly fixed to the keel of a boat employed to approach the vessel to be sunk, and is longer than the boat by from 12 ft. to 15 ft. Another spur, but shorter, and supplied with an elastic buffer, is nailed to the stem of the boat parallel to the spur under water. When the first spur was driven into the plank of the frigate the upper one struck the ship, but the elastic buffer disengaged the lower spur and caused it to recoil. At that moment the electric spark ignited the fulminating powder, the frigate and her four boats were lifted more than three feet out of the water, and again fell into the sea, giving passage through the keel to an immense column of water. This destructive effect was produced by six pounds' weight of fulminating powder prepared by a Paris chemist. Naval officers who witnessed the experiment, and who had served in the Baltic and in the Black Sea during the Crimean War, are said to have stated that none of the instruments of destruction then used produced such effects, or so completely destroyed a ship against which they were directed.



EXPERIMENTS WITH TORPEDOES IN THE ROADSTEAD OF TOLON: BLOWING UP OF THE FRIGATE VAUVAN.

JAMES STEPHENS, THE FENIAN

HEAD CENTRE.

We have already published several Illustrations representing recent events connected with the Fenian movement in Ireland, and we are able this week to engrave a Portrait of the leader who has been most famous, or, rather, most notorious, in connection with the spread of disaffection.

James Stephens, who is said to be the founder, as he is the Irish chief, of Fenianism, was born in the county of Kilkenny in 1823, and was put to the business of a civil engineer. He was very little known until the formation of the Young Ireland party by O'Brien and Mitchel; but, having joined the ranks of that association, he took advantage of the famine of 1847-8 to stir up the people to insurrection, and several young and enthusiastic followers of his party responded to his appeals, adopting him as their leader, being eager to share in the dangers incurred by O'Brien—dangers, however, such as they were, which were not accompanied with much glory. The arrest of O'Brien put an end to the temporary agitation, and Stephens sought safety in France, where he had been preceded by another of the Young Irishmen, O'Mahony, now the American head centre. After living some years in France, where he occupied himself, among other things, in translating the works of Mr. Charles Dickens, Stephens returned to Ireland, and again commenced the formation of a secret society, the results of which we have seen in Fenianism, but the entire ramifications of which are known, it is said, only to Stephens himself, who has expended all his ingenuity in the endeavour to organise a complete system by which the conspiracy may be ultimately successful. He is its sole founder, and to him alone are known all its secrets, whatever they may be. He has been three times across the Atlantic in order to form and develop Fenianism in the United States, aided by his early friend, O'Mahony, who has taken up a more permanent abode there.

For some time after his escape from the Richmond prison Stephens remained in Ireland, and even in Dublin, where it is declared that he easily evaded the search of the police by means of a number of counteracting Fenian police, who were employed to frustrate inquiries. He has now been for some time in Paris, previous to his departure for America—a journey which he has arranged to undertake in the course of the next week.

An inquiry has been instituted into the mysterious escape of Stephens from Richmond Bridewell, which, it was believed, could not have been effected except by treachery on the part of some of the prison officials.

The evidence now completed divides itself into two parts—the first having reference to Stephens's escape, the other affecting the general discipline of the prison and the conduct of its officers. The report states that Stephens was under the charge of Warder Coleman, in whom Mr. Marquis, the governor, and Mr. Gavin, the local inspector of the prison, had the greatest confidence. Of Mr. Marquis, "who had always borne an unimpeached character for integrity," the inspectors report "that they are compelled by a painful sense of duty to state that he has proved his entire incompetency to meet the present emergency, and he exhibited a want of judgment, and even of common-sense, which, with regard to his antecedents, appears almost unaccountable." Suspicion (says the report) was so strongly directed towards the night watchman, Byrne, who was the only officer on duty after the ten p.m. patrol on the night of the escape, that he was arrested by the detective police. In his room were found a copy of the Fenian oath and a padlock similar to the padlocks on No. 6 range, which corresponded with the locks on the cells of No. 9, where Stephens was confined; and it appeared from



JAMES STEPHENS, THE IRISH FENIAN HEAD CENTRE.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.)

the evidence of Mr. Marquis that the keys of No. 6 padlocks would open the padlocks on No. 9. The inspectors conclude their report by suggesting eight alterations, and amongst them the removal of Mr. Marquis, which they believe to be indispensable for the good government of the gaol in which State prisoners were ordinarily confined.

THE FIVE SENSES.

HEARING.

WHEN we go to hear a lecture on sound at the Polytechnic Institution, and see a gentleman cleverly illustrating the theory of waves of air, and alternate vibrations, by means of models in solid carpentry, we give a great gasp and think that this is a wonderful age. The worst of it is, that the moment we get outside we cease to apply any of those scientific tests and reflections which

we have been seeing and hearing. It is true, we may sometimes wish that as two waves of the sea running in such a relative direction that they interlap in their respective hollows will ultimately produce a smooth surface, so the roar and bustle of the streets could somehow be modulated on such a principle that the sound currents might dovetail into complete silence. We may even go so far as to calculate how it would be possible to produce volumes of harmony so vast that they would take a man off his legs without his being able to hear them at all. But, apart from such vague speculations, we are quite contented to let the waves alone, along with the rest of the elements, and to speak of hearing as though it were a distinct and separate sense, quite independent of feeling, instead of being a modification of it.

It was, unless the French reading-books are quite mistaken in their rendering of Piccioli, the Count Charles Veramont de Charney, who, having at the early age of twenty-five acquired a prodigious mastery over languages and most other branches of human learning, fell into an evil habit of mental dissection, and at length was led to imagine everything resolved into the elements of decay. It is almost as pernicious a custom to cut and carve one's perceptions and enjoyments with a set of scientific instruments, and to demonstrate every object which engages one's attention on the point of an imaginary lancet; to dessicate, as it were, all the various parts of nature, and map out the marvellous creative scheme of adaptation by means of our miserable little bits of illustrative learning, just as some pothouse oracle will try to show his knowledge of topography on a tap-room table with scraps of broken tobacco-pipe.

The folly of this obviously is, that all merely scientific explanation, high and even holy as is its mission, has to deal principally with phenomena—with things as they affect the senses by contact: so that one might almost say there is no real beauty, no grandeur, no grace, no ineffable charm, and, of course, no sentiment whatever, in a merely scientific view of things. Form is but variation of locality; grandeur but this variation combined with cumulation into masses of shapes bearing certain geometrical figures; grace nothing more than a term expressing the adaptation of a certain varied cumulation, concatenation, or what not, to the sense that perceives it; and then away we go altogether right out of the domains of mere physics into metaphysics; and just because men will try to put asunder those things which have been eternally joined together. Therefore, unless we can be wisely knowing, let us rest in contented ignorance, and go forth into the fields to hear the lark sing as he rises upward from the earth of

physical beauty to the heaven of light and love, and feel that we have a part in both.

Across the sweetly-scented uplands, where the sound of the little tinkling church bell alone breaks the Sabbath stillness, made all the more impressive by the subdued hum of insects; where the white sheep dot the pastures, and at a distance can scarcely be distinguished from the whiter gravestones in God's acre; where we may walk and find some sense of inward peace, even though our souls may refuse to soar much above the earth. Suddenly from out the tall green grass an embodied song springs aloft and cleaves the air, up to the abyss of blue heavenward, where it is no longer seen except as a tiny mote, from which a hymn of love and praise comes thrilling and throbbing—a bridge of pure melody; and so through ear-gate we, too, mount upward, and stand on the very threshold of the mansion that is built on the everlasting hills. But we have not yet attained to that inheritance, and when the carol is at full out-



THE FIVE SENSES: HEARING.—(DRAWN BY MISS CLAXTON.)



burst the tiny speck grows larger, the notes become low and plaintive, and back to earth comes the chorister, bringing our hearts with it.

There are philosophers, however, who find more of lofty hope and noble promise even in the most sordid London street than in the loveliest landscape or the sweetest country side of England. Doctor Johnson seemed to gain brighter views of life and stronger faith in immortality by his walks about Fleet-street, and it is possible that there are ears which may discern wonderful undertones even in the discordant chant of a street carol, the blatant utterances of a democratic orator, or the slangy volubility of a cheap Jack. All ordinary sense of harmony, however, is depraved by much acquaintance with London thoroughfares. Even the metropolitan dogs loose the tone of that natural bark which distinguishes their brethren in the country, and the bell of the muffin-man is lost in the screech of the railway-train as it thunders over a be-brided neighbourhood. There has been a regular onslaught upon street-minstrels lately, and it is doubtful whether the irrepressible organ-grinder will much longer hold his own; yet much might be said in favour of such poor and imperfect music as the itinerants provide for very numerous and appreciative audiences. Who has not seen, in some by-street lying off a great thoroughfare, a troop of children, moving in a dance of composite figure, but with steps and gyrations instinctively graceful, as the grinning Italian sets his wheezing pipes to a waltz tune or rattles out a lively jerking polka?

There is complaint, forsooth, that the street-musicians haunt quiet thoroughfares or squares where private houses have attracted inmates who desire all the advantages of a busy vicinity with the retirement of Salisbury Plain. It is in these streets that round-faced babies clap their chubby hands together at the windows when they hear "Slap-bang, here we are again!"—where troops of shrill-voiced little bandits emerge from cavernous doorways and whirl in a sort of infantine and innocent carmagnole to the last adaptation from "Trovatore." No organ-grinder, with the smallest spark of a love for music, could set up his instrument on its mahogany leg at a street corner by a ginshop with a roaring trade, there to be exposed to all the bustle of a busy street, the drunken quarrels of a succession of bar customers, and the blatant defiance of a screaming Irishwoman who, with a couple of urchins tired of throwing "cart wheels" in the mud, yells "sweet sperrit heurr my perr-ay-err," with a sidelong look at the announcement of "cream of the valley" or "old Jamaica rum." Even the monkey is anxious to escape from such a neighbourhood, and, though not belonging originally to a musical family—having been trained to his own performance on the organ—is shocked by such an outrage upon the sense of hearing.

THE OPERA.

A VERY ladylike representative of Violetta, in "La Traviata," appeared at the Royal Italian Opera on Saturday evening. Mdlle. Aglaia Orgeni is delicate, and even fragile, in figure, and she does not feel it necessary to indicate the consumptive tendencies of the unfortunate heroine by the unmistakable cough to which stouter representatives of the part have usually had recourse. In this opera—such a curious mixture of piquancy, insipidity, and phthisis—it is desirable that the representative of Violetta should not look the character to perfection, and in this respect Mdlle. Orgeni seems to us to fail very happily. There are certain details in the novel of "La Dame aux Camélias" which would be intolerable in the drama, and certain details in the drama which, whether intolerable or not, are very properly omitted in the opera.

The new soprano was particularly successful in the first and last acts. She sang the allegro of her great scene, "Ah forz' e lui," with great spirit and with admirable lightness; while throughout the last act her performance, without being tragic, was certainly touching. We may mention in particular that she sang the pathetic air at the beginning with great dramatic expression and without the slightest exaggeration.

On Thursday last a new contralto, Mdlle. Morensi, made her débüt in the well-known part of Azucena. So many great singers have played this part that it is easy, by imitating them, to attain a certain excellence in it. How many tenors have appeared with success as Edgardo, and have afterwards failed altogether in variety of other characters? On Tuesday Mdlle. Morensi sang very well, but without making any very decided impression on the audience.

Her Majesty's Theatre opened on Saturday evening with new yellow curtains and the promise of a new tenor. The new tenor, however, Signor Arvini by name, did not appear. A new soprano, Mdlle. Louise Lichtmayr, had also been expected, but all hope of arriving in time for the opening performance was abandoned some days beforehand. Finally, on the first night of the season, the public were offered, by way of an attraction, "Il Trovatore," with Mdlle. Sinico as the heroine and Signor Stagno as the hero. To improve matters, Signor Stagno fancied that he had taken cold, and made a formal communication of his fears on the subject to the public, who otherwise would certainly never have imagined that he had anything at all the matter with his voice. For a tenor with a cold, Signor Stagno sang vigorously and clearly enough. This young vocalist is not engaged, we believe, for first tenor parts; but it is seldom that a second tenor of such remarkable merit is found in an operatic company, however complete. Mdlle. Sinico is among sopranos much what Signor Stagno is among tenors. If it were not essentially necessary that every part in an opera should be well filled, we should say that she was too good for second-rate parts; and certainly she has shown herself quite equal to the representation of characters of primary importance. Mdlle. Demerle-Labache (formerly of the Royal Italian Opera, then for some years of the Italian Opera of St. Petersburg, and who, on Saturday, was heard for the first time at Her Majesty's Theatre) took the part of Azucena. Our incomparable baritone, Mr. Santley, appeared as the Count di Luna. Of course, "God Save the Queen" was sung; and, of course, the words were curiously mispronounced by the Italian singers.

On Tuesday Signor Arvini made his first appearance, as Manrico, in "Il Trovatore," with moderate success.

MR. PEABODY'S REPLY TO HER MAJESTY.—The following letter has been transmitted to the Queen, through Earl Russell, in reply to Her Majesty's gracious letter to Mr. Peabody:—"The Palace Hotel, Buckingham-gate, London, April 3. Madame,—I feel sensibly my inability to express in adequate terms the gratification with which I have read the letter which your Majesty has done me the high honour of transmitting by the hands of Earl Russell. On the occasion which has attracted your Majesty's attention of setting apart a portion of my property to ameliorate the condition, and augment the comforts of the poor of London, I have been actuated by a deep sense of gratitude to God, who has blessed me with prosperity, and of attachment to this great country, where, under your Majesty's benign rule, I have received so much personal kindness and enjoyed so many years of happiness. Next to the approval of my own conscience, I shall always prize the assurance which your Majesty's letter conveys to me of the approbation of the Queen of England, whose whole life has attested that her exalted station has in no degree diminished her sympathy with the humblest of her subjects. The portrait which your Majesty is graciously pleased to bestow on me I shall value as the most precious heirloom that I can leave in the land of my birth, where, together with the letter which your Majesty has addressed to me, it will ever be regarded as an evidence of the kindly feeling of the Queen of the United Kingdom towards a citizen of the United States."

MR. GLADSTONE AS LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Mr. Gladstone, at Liverpool, said that he had been puzzled to account for the facility with which the Government business had been transacted this year in the House of Commons, and he alluded to various causes which had helped it on. But he was too modest to allude to the principal cause. There is no doubt that he has himself excited in the new members on the opposite side, as well as on his own side, a singular respect. The quality which has been most efficacious is not, at a distance and out of the House, most apparent. Brilliance is only a secondary influence in a transacting assembly like the House of Commons. The quality which most moves respect is real work for real objects; and Mr. Gladstone probably works harder than any man in England. Probably he errs by too much labour. But there is only one opinion in the House of Commons as to the way in which public business is transacted, and that is that no leader of the House ever took so much trouble, not only on party matters, but on all matters—not only on things by which he might gain, but equally on things by which he could never hope to gain.—*Economist.*

THE MEETING OF LIBERALS.

THE anticipated meeting of Liberal members of the House of Commons assembled on Tuesday, in answer to Earl Russell's appeal, at the official residence of the First Lord of the Treasury, in Downing-street. No recognised newspaper reporter having been present, the reports of the proceedings given by our daily contemporaries vary somewhat in character as well as in extent. The *Daily News* states that the numbers present were 263; the *Post* gives them at 286; the *Star* at 250; and the *Telegraph* at more than 250. According to the *Herald* the numbers were only 176. Lists, said to be authentic, state the number present at 275.

At a few minutes after one o'clock the Premier, who was accompanied by Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goschen, and Mr. Milner Gibson, entered the room. In the course of his speech he remarked that four main objections had been made to the project of the Government, and he proceeded to deal with these serially. It had been objected, in the first place, that they had needlessly stirred up the question of the franchise. To this accusation he replied by a rapid but lucid sketch of his own dealings with reference to reform, and showed that, while he himself had never doubted that an amendment of our representative system was desirable, it was necessary to have public opinion on his side in order to bring any measure on the subject forward with a reasonable prospect of success. Even now he would not have done so had he not been persuaded that the public mind was ripe for such a reform, and the way in which the proposal had been received throughout the country justified the course which the Government had pursued. The second objection was to the effect that he ought not to have separated the two main branches of the reform question; and to this he answered that their proposal was not a mere fragmentary one, but dealt with a full half, and a most important half, of the subject. He quoted the advice given by Mr. Ellice in 1807 as to the desirability of not making any reform measure too extensive; and he said that on the introduction of a previous bill he had been warned by an eloquent speech in the House of Commons that it would fail because it dealt with both the suffrage and the redistribution of seats, whereas it would have been wiser to have dealt with one at a time. That "eloquent speech" came from the lips of Mr. Horsman! Lord Russell further said that the Government had had due regard to the advice given by Mr. Bright to the same effect; whilst, being earnest in their own desire to settle the question, they had distinctly considered it the best plan to introduce the Franchise Bill first, and then proceed to deal with the redistribution of seats.

It had been objected, in the third place, that the bill went too far. He could not admit the justice of the charge, and he dwelt upon the admirable conduct of the working classes on that day, the 10th of April, eighteen years ago, and again during the cotton famine, as showing that they were fit for a larger share in the representation. The Government had been told that they were about to give power to classes who were idle, drunken, impulsive, and venal; but it was not those who might merit that designation whom they proposed to enfranchise. They had sought, on the contrary, for the most industrious and independent of the artisan class, and were convinced they had secured them by the limit they had fixed. He went further. He confessed that the bill was only a moderate one as regarded that section of society; and, if the working classes had flung it back with scorn on the ground that they had been too long trifled with, and would put no faith in its authors now, he for one should have felt that he had no right to complain.

The fourth and last objection raised was that the Government did not deserve the confidence of the country. Upon that objection he had only to remark that, if the present Administration were turned out, the Conservatives must come into power; and he asked whether either their financial or their foreign policy would be so acceptable to the British nation as that which was now pursued. He then ridiculed the idea of a composite Ministry, and, denouncing Lord Grosvenor's amendment as insincere and really intended to frustrate reform, he concluded by urging, in emphatic terms, the claims of the people to a wider basis of representation.

A long discussion then ensued, in the course of which various questions were addressed to the Ministers. Mr. Ayrton, for instance, asked whether the Government was to be understood as pledging itself to stand or fall by both parts of the bill, in which case it should have his hearty support.

The only two speeches that could be considered as hostile to the Government proposal were those of Mr. Laing and Mr. James. Mr. Laing declared that he still retained his original impression with regard to the imperfect and piecemeal character of the bill. The tide of democracy, he said, was gaining upon them so fast that he and others demurred to making any change in part until they saw what the whole would be. They were not opposed to all concession, but he called on Ministers to say whether the present was proposed as a final settlement. Upon the answer to that question would very much depend the course he should pursue. He did not say, however, in express terms that he should oppose the bill, nor did any other member make a declaration to that effect. Mr. E. James merely expressed his reluctance to vote for the second reading until he had seen the Redistribution Bill; and he stated that the better sort of people in Manchester and Liverpool were opposed to it.

This assertion was forthwith repudiated with much warmth by his colleague, Mr. Bazley, who declared that an overwhelming majority of his constituents were in favour of the bill; whilst Mr. Graham, after corroborating the statement of Mr. Bazley, expressed a wish that Scotland should be included in the measure, and that in committee it should be incorporated with the Redistribution Bill. He wanted, moreover, a pledge from Lord Russell that, if beaten on either, he would dissolve Parliament.

Mr. McCullagh Torrens, in special answer to Mr. Laing, earnestly deprecated the consideration by Government of the very idea of finality. "Finality" was an inauspicious word. Earl Russell had himself characterised the bill as "a very moderate measure;" yet the working classes everywhere had frankly and good-humouredly agreed to accept it. It had not been offered to them as an instalment; and, on the other hand, they ought not to be asked to give for it a receipt in full. Let the future take care of itself, but let the measure be judged on its own intrinsic merits.

Mr. Cogan, speaking as an Irish Liberal, signified the determination of himself and his friends to support the Government. They sought to make no bargain; but they hoped that, when Irish measures were brought forward, they would be met in a corresponding spirit by the English Liberal party.

Mr. Bouvierie, whilst saying that he retained his original impressions on the subject, distinctly pledged himself to vote for the second reading of the bill; whilst a far more hearty adhesion to the Government proposal was expressed by Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Baxter, Mr. McLaren, Colonel Sykes, and other speakers.

Mr. Bright declared that he still thought the Ministry had done wisely in taking the question of the franchise first. Public opinion, he considered, was not yet ripe for redistribution, and it would do no harm if they waited two or three years for that. The passing of the Franchise Bill would not necessitate a dissolution, whilst that of the other measure in contemplation would.

As the discussion proceeded, both Earl Russell and Mr. Gladstone emphatically asserted that they regarded the redistribution of seats as a vital part of their reform policy, and that the attempt to defeat the second reading of the Franchise Bill on the plea that it did not deal with the question as a whole was in reality an invidious attempt to get rid of reform altogether. They also stated that they did not see any necessity for dissolution of Parliament in consequence of the carrying of a franchise bill, and that there was no reason for delaying the second measure—that of redistribution—when the first was carried. Mr. Gladstone, agreeing with Mr. Bright as to the advisability of treating the measures separately, could not concur with him as to the expediency of severing them in point of time. The Government, however, must be allowed to judge as to the exact moment of bringing forward the second proposal. Mr. Gladstone, in strong terms, repudiated, as far as he himself was concerned, the fears of "democracy" which had been expressed by Mr. Laing; but

with regard to the remainder of that gentleman's speech, he could not see, after all, what essential difference there remained between himself and Mr. Laing, whom he understood to dissent only in matters of degree.

Lord Russell, in conclusion, declined to give any positive pledge as to the course that would be pursued by the Government; but he expressed his complete satisfaction with the result of the meeting, and congratulated those present on the general unanimity which had prevailed.

MR. LOWE AND MR. GLADSTONE.

MR. LOWE writes to the *Times* complaining of the allusions made to him by Mr. Gladstone in the latter's speech at Liverpool. He says:—

Instead of quoting what I did say in the House, where he would have been liable to correction had he misquoted it, he avoids committing himself to my words, but says "I was understood" in the House of Commons to have delivered this opinion, "that the labouring classes of this country were totally unfit to be intrusted to any greater extent than at present with the electoral franchise. Those of the labouring classes who now possess the franchise were conspicuous for four remarkable virtues: ignorance, drunkenness, venality, and violence." Had Mr. Gladstone quoted these words in my presence I should have contradicted him in the hearing of an audience which could have judged by its own recollection whether I was right or wrong. Had he quoted the report of my speech, it would itself have contradicted his assertion. But he does neither, but shelters himself behind the vague assertion that I was "understood" to say such things, and then proceeds to argue as if I had actually said them.

He had before him my answer to the protest of some of my constituents, in which I pointed out that I was speaking of abuses notoriously existing in many constituencies, and not levelling an indiscriminate censure at a whole class. Yet he puts this aside, and insists upon it that I was speaking of those of "the labouring classes who now possess the franchise"—that is, of all those who now possess it.

Into the arguments Mr. Gladstone draws from my answer to some of my constituents I shall not enter. My answer was, at any rate, intelligible; to me, at least, his arguments are not. Possibly there are some errors in the report. But I cannot help regretting that Mr. Gladstone did not adhere to his resolution against branding his fellow-countrymen who do not support his bill with contumely or reproval, or that, if that resolution was to be flung to the winds, that he did not choose for the place of sacrifice the door of the House of Commons instead of the Philharmonic Hall at Liverpool. It may be quite right to tell me that "I have a kind of mania on this subject." It may be quite right to express an opinion approving the protest of some of my constituents, including, I presume, its tone and manner; it may be right to imply that I "utter sentiments more violent than the Opposition are ready to give utterance to;" it may be right to say that Mr. Gladstone "honoured me for my courage till he had read my letter." Had these or similar things been said in the course of debate, I, or some one else on my behalf, might have replied to them; and I am too well used to Parliamentary conflicts to cavil at every hard word that may be uttered. But these attacks on the character, conduct, and abilities of a member of Parliament for words spoken in Parliament ought not to be made by the leader of the House elsewhere than in Parliament itself. It is unworthy of the position of Mr. Gladstone to retail second-hand misrepresentation after it had been for weeks circulated by that portion of the press which advocates his views, especially when supported by the ignoble arts of omitting what I did say, or interpolating what I did not.

THE ST. PANCRAS WORKHOUSE AGAIN.

ON Monday a special committee of the St. Pancras board of guardians met to inquire into the fresh charges brought against the authorities of St. Pancras workhouse, that a child had been allowed to remain without being washed or dressed for a great length of time, and that persons old and young had been buried for dead without the doctor seeing them. Mr. Thornton occupied the chair. Daniel Chatterton, the person who made the charge through Mr. Hillocks, handed a letter to the chairman to the effect that he protested against the case of his child being settled by a committee without his having the opportunity of bringing forward his friends or witnesses. If the matter were brought before the board of guardians, when he could have his witnesses present, he should be prepared to prove all his statements. In this resolution he was supported by Mr. Hillocks, who was allowed to come forward. It was then agreed that the inquiry should be adjourned for the production of witnesses. In answer to a question, Mr. Hillocks said the statement made by him in the *Times* of the previous day that he had been forbidden to enter any ward in the house was true. Mr. Morrison, the master of the house, said that was false. He told him he would not be allowed to go from one ward to another, as he had been in the habit of doing, but that if any person in the house wished to see him, and told him so, he would allow him to see that person, but that person alone, and he should always send an official with him on such occasions. Mr. Hillocks repeated the charge, and said that when he applied for permission to see a man named Kingsford in the insane ward the master used the words before stated, and then sent two men to inquire if Kingsford wanted to see witness. Upon their return one of them said Kingsford did not at first say distinctly that he wanted to see Mr. Hillocks, but when he was told that it was the "evangelist" he said, "Then I want to see him." The master then did not give him permission to see Kingsford. The witness was about to leave the house when he saw both the doctors, and said, "It is a pity you are so much afraid that you dare not let me visit the house as usual." A man named Davey, a porter in the house, then came forward and said, "Afraid! I'm not afraid of you. Time was when I would have put a sword through you." The reply was, "I'm glad the time is past." The witness, when about to leave the house, signed his name, and was going to make some remarks in the place set apart in the book for them, when the pen was snatched from his hand, and, after some altercation, the book was taken away by the officials. Mr. Morrison, the master of the house, then read a statement similar to the one he had previously made in contradiction of Mr. Hillocks. He accused Mr. Hillocks of obtaining admission to the house on various occasions under false pretences. Davey, the man before referred to, said—"I did not say that the time was when I would have run Mr. Hillocks through with a sword. I did say that time was when I would have put him in a box he would not easily have got out of." Mr. Hillocks said the master's statement was a mixture of truth and falsehood, and as to the statement that he had ever obtained admission to the house under false pretences, it was a downright lie. The committee further proceeded to inquire with respect to certain statements made by their resident surgeon and the midwife in answer to questions at the late Coroner's inquest on the body of the child alleged to have been "laid out" while alive. The statement reported to have been made by Mr. Butt, surgeon, was that he had about 2000 inmates under his immediate care, with only one qualified assistant and a dispenser to aid him. In answer to the committee, Mr. Butt said the figures referred to were not his. They were put to him in the form of a question, and he was compelled to endorse them because they were correct. He would not have given them to the public himself. He did not complain of having too much to attend to, and nobody suffered because of the number. The dispenser, upon being examined, said he made up about 300 prescriptions a day, by the direction of the doctor. The committee directed further returns to be made to them on the subject, and adjourned the inquiry to give time for those returns to be made out.

CURIOS ACCIDENT.—A dangerous accident occurred at Plymouth on Monday morning, by which six women narrowly escaped suffocation. The schooner Ebenezer, of Leith, captain and owner Robert Watson, was discharging potatoes from Leith alongside a quay in Sutton harbour. Eight Irishwomen were at work in the hold loading baskets with the potatoes, when, by their incautious taking away a quantity of the potatoes that supported a temporary bulkhead, the bulkhead gave way, and six of the women were immediately buried under several tons of potatoes. Assistance was very promptly rendered the women, and three of them were soon extricated, but the other three were over an hour under the potatoes before they could be got out. Four of the women were taken to the South Devon Hospital, where, fortunately, it was found that, although they had been badly bruised, no bones were broken; one woman had, however, dislocated her collarbone.

DEATH OF LORD CLINTON.—The death of this venerable peer occurred about nine o'clock on Tuesday night, at his seat, Heanton Satchville, near Bideford, in the county of Devon. The noble Lord was the eighteenth baron. He was born in November, 1791, and was consequently in his seventy-fifth year. He was educated at Oriel College, Oxford, at which University he passed first class in mathematics, took his M.A. degree in 1817, and afterwards became a Fellow of All Souls'. He succeeded his brother to the title in 1839, and married, the year preceding, Lady Georgiana Kerr, second daughter of the sixth Marquis of Lothian, by whom he leaves issue living, the Hon. C. H. R. Trefusis, M.P. for North Devon, the Hon. Mark George Kerr Rolfe, the Hon. W. R. Trefusis, the Hon. J. S. Trefusis, and seven daughters. The deceased nobleman sat for Okehampton before the passing of the Reform Bill, was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of the North Devon Yeomanry Cavalry in 1842, and a Deputy Lieutenant of Devon in 1846. Lord Clinton was a Conservative in politics, and a kind and liberal landlord, generous to the poor, and in his family and social relations a pattern father and a true gentleman. The Hon. C. H. R. Trefusis, M.P., eldest son of the deceased, who succeeds to the title, was born in 1834, educated at Eton, and at Christ Church, Oxford, is Deputy Lieutenant in magistrate for the county, and Colonel of the North Devon Yeomanry Cavalry. He married, in 1858, Harriet Willamina, daughter of Sir John Stuart Forbes, Bart. By his elevation a vacancy is caused in the representation of the northern division of Devon. A candidate for that vacancy will be brought forward by the Conservative party, and there is probability of an opposition.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE indictment against Mr. Ferguson, the music-master, who stabbed a disguised police constable, mistaking him for a nocturnal robber, has been thrown out by the grand jury at the Middlesex Sessions. There can be no doubt that this result was consequent upon the directions of the Deputy Recorder, in his address, from which we quote an extract relating to the matter:—

The prisoner had been out to a party, and was returning home at a late hour, with his instrument under his arm, and was going along a very lonely road, at Sydenham, on his way home. He appeared to have met the constable, who was in plain clothes, and they wished each other good night, and parted. According to the statement of the constable, he suspected, as the prisoner was carrying a bag, that there was something wrong, and he followed him, and when he did so the prisoner accelerated his pace, and at length set off running. He pursued him, and on coming up with him a struggle appeared to have taken place between them, and during the struggle the prisoner appeared to have drawn a knife and inflicted a very serious wound upon the officer. The constable stated that he repeatedly told the prisoner, while the struggle was going on between them, that he was a police constable; but it was evident that the prisoner was under great alarm, and that he appeared to have entertained the apprehension that the object of the constable was to rob him, and at one part of the proceedings he appeared to have taken out his watch and laid it on the ground, saying, "Take that." The question for the grand jury to consider was whether the evidence was sufficient to justify them in finding a bill against the prisoner for felonious wounding. There was no doubt that the constable was wounded, and he was sorry to say that the injury he received was of a very serious character; but the question was whether the injury was inflicted feloniously; and if they should be of opinion that the prisoner really believed that he was about to be robbed, and committed the act in what he considered to be self-defence, it was his duty to tell them that he would not be amenable to the charge that was preferred against him of having feloniously wounded the constable. The grand jury would look at all the circumstances of the case—the hour of the night, the lonely place, and the whole conduct of the prisoner—and if they should think that he acted under a reasonable idea that he was about to be robbed, and that he committed the act of violence in what he considered to be merely self-defence, it appeared to him that he would not be amenable to the charge that was made against him. Another question might possibly arise—whether, supposing the prisoner to have been guilty of excess, and to have made use of more violence than was absolutely necessary to protect himself from the supposed attack that was made upon him, he would not, in law, at all events, be guilty of an assault; but he thought the grand jury would hardly trouble themselves to discuss that question. That the injury was inflicted by the prisoner there was no doubt; but the material point was whether at the time the act was committed the prisoner really entertained the opinion that he was merely defending himself from an attack that was being made upon him for the purpose of robbery, and that in point of fact what he did was in self-defence; and if there was reasonable evidence that this was the case they ought not to return a true bill against him.

We publish the above at length, not only because it exactly coincides with what has been already published in the way of comment by ourselves and by every one of our contemporaries who has remarked upon the matter, but because it gives authority to the popular protest which this case has evoked against the novel powers and privileges sought to be assumed on the part of the police. In their return ignoring the bill of indictment, the grand jury expressed their opinion that "in all cases where policemen in plain clothes were employed, some unmistakable means should be adopted, either by a staff or a warrant-card, to show who they were, with a view to prevent the recurrence of similar proceeding to the present." It happens, by way of curious corollary to this case, that almost simultaneously with its result, we learn that the police are to be exercised in cutlass-drill, and that they are making house-to-house visitation and inquiry as to dogs kept by householders and others. Perhaps the employment of policemen in plain clothes may be hereafter pleaded as an excuse for the rarity of their appearance in uniform when wanted.

The Deputy Recorder has publicly repudiated the expression attributed to him in the reports of a recent trial: "For my part, I am rather inclined to believe in spiritualism." The learned gentleman states that this is a misrepresentation, no doubt unintentional; and that his words were, in alluding to some remarks which had been made by counsel in the course of the argument:—"I cannot exactly say, with the learned counsel, that I am a universal sceptic; for my own part, I am rather inclined to believe. But of spiritualism I know nothing whatever." We are not disposed to question the speaker's own record of what may have been passing in his mind, whether or not his memory of it may be as accurate as the verbatim report, taken upon the spot, and allowed to remain uncontradicted for upwards of a month; for there may be a sense of dignity, by no means improper, to prevent a Judge correcting a misrepresentation of his own utterances otherwise than in his own court. But the censures of the press upon this matter were by no means confined to this supposed unlucky observation. The general complaint lay against the inadequacy of the sentence of the fine of £50 imposed for a most villainous libel, for which no excuse could be alleged, but which the learned Deputy Recorder extenuated, nevertheless, by the statement that "the controversy had grown very hot, and that the defendant had at length overstepped the bounds of fair and reasonable discussion." There had been no controversy and no discussion. Mr. Sothern had published—not in the *Spiritual Times*, but elsewhere—his own testimony in confirmation of the exposure of a notorious imposture. The retort to this was a vile, personal libel by the accredited agents of jugglers interested in a public fraud. Whether the Deputy Recorder believed in spiritualism in the abstract had no more to do with the question than whether or no he believed in Buddhism, Calvinism, or Stodare's Sphinx. The litigation again came before the Deputy Recorder this week on a prosecution against one Robert Cooper, proprietor of the *Spiritual Times*. The defendant professed sincere regret at having published the libel, and ignorance of the fact of its promulgation in the journal of which he was proprietor. He was allowed, by the forbearance of Mr. Serjeant Bailant, to depart upon his own recognisance for £500.

Another assault has been committed by Lord Ranelagh upon Captain Norton. We say another, because it is a matter of notoriety that this "captain" had once before formed an object of attack by his Lordship. If what is currently reported be true, no man ever better deserved a thrashing, or obtained one more thoroughly administered, than Captain Norton on the occasion of his last preceding interview with Lord Ranelagh. If the story be un-

true, Captain Norton should surely take immediate steps to put the matter before the public under its real aspect if he have any respect or regard for his position or reputation. The more recent event, as reported, is this: Lord Ranelagh met the Captain on the Esplanade at Brighton, walking with a "mutual friend." His Lordship at once denounced the Captain as a blackguard and scoundrel. The Captain thereupon struck his Lordship with a cane, upon which Lord Ranelagh knocked him down, and told him that on their next encounter he would thrash him to death. Captain Norton applies to his solicitor, a summons is issued, the original cause of quarrel is hushed up, and Lord Ranelagh is bound over to keep the peace for six months. Says the noble defendant, "I do not require Captain Norton also to be bound over, for I am not afraid of him."

A very neat and artful method of obtaining a sentence of two years' hard labour, in exchange for twelve pounds ten shillings, hard cash, was practised by two silly fellows named Herbert and Allen. They advertised to lend money. The cost of the advertisement should be deducted from the cash credit. They found a person, who in reply to some letters sent by them, remitted £25, as interest on a promised advance of £500. The two schemers sent a worthless cheque for the loan, and succeeded in astonishing the recipient, who, on presenting it, had it returned with the note "No effects." Out of the £25 the clever conspirators had to pay attorneys and counsel, but they were successful in receiving their due sentence.

POLICE.

SPARE THE ROD.—James Hobman, a rough-looking boy, was charged with breaking every window in his parents' house, and violently assaulting his mother by throwing large stones at her.

The mother said she was under the necessity of turning the boy out of the room that morning, when he immediately broke every pane of glass in the windows, and then the sashes. He also pelted her with large stones.

Mr. Selfe (to defendant)—You are committed for one month to hard labour in the House of Correction, and I can only express my regret that the law does not empower me to order you a good whipping.

CASUALS AND THEIR HOT BREAKFASTS.—Eleven casuals, men and lads, were brought before Mr. Ellison for refusing to work, they being able-bodied and having capacity to labour.

Dillon, an officer of St. Luke's Workhouse.—These persons were admitted last night, and, after having breakfasted this morning, refused to do any work in the stonewall. They said that they wanted the usual hot meal, and, although I told them hot breakfasts were abolished between the 1st of April and the 1st of November, they appeared to disbelieve me, and expressed wish to be taken before a magistrate. Adams was the first who objected to work without having something hot, and the rest followed his example.

Webb, one of the casuals.—Well, Sir, we are sorry if we have done wrong, but the night before I had to sleep in St. Saviour's parish, where I had gruel for breakfast, and thought it only right that I should at Shoreham. I was very cold and shivering, and thought that the hot gruel would do me good.

Mr. Ellison.—Did they want gruel?

Dillon.—That of cocoa, Sir.

Webb—I have heard from Mr. Farnall's own mouth that we were entitled to hot gruel, and I have read the same; however, if wrong, we are sorry for having refused to work.

Mr. Ellison.—The officer could not direct what you were to have. You might believe he spoke the truth.

Adams, Moore, Prendergast, James, Turner, Clark, Owen, Sandford, and Clements each expressed contrition; and when Sullivan's turn came he replied, "I say as the other gentlemen have said."

Mr. Ellison remarked that he believed there had been a misunderstanding on the part of the men, and ordered their liberation at five o'clock.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

THE political advices from Germany being considered of an unfavourable character, the market for all National Securities has been very inactive this week, and the quotations have not been supported. Consols, for Money, have been 86½; Ditto, for Account, 86½; Reduced and New Three per Cents, 84½; Exchequer Bills, March 9th, to 4s. Dis; Ditto, June 3rd, to 2s. Dis. Bank stock has marked 24 to 24½.

The dealings in Indian Stocks, &c., have been on a limited scale. India Stock, 200 to 210; Ditto, Five per Cent., 102½; Rape Paper, 100 to 102½; 107½ to 108; India Bonds, 150 to 20s. premium.

The dividend payments having commenced, the supply of money in the discount market has increased. The demand for accommodation has been far from active, at the annexed rates for the best commercial bills.

Thirty Days' Bills	.. .. ..	5s per cent.
Sixty Days' ..	.. .. ..	5s "
Three Months' ..	.. .. ..	6 "
Four Months' ..	.. .. ..	6s "
Six Months' ..	.. .. ..	6s "

In the Stock Exchange the rates for advances have been 4½ to 5 per cent.

The imports and exports of the precious metals have been very moderate, and only a limited amount in gold has been sent into the Bank of England. The steamer for the East has taken out £165,000. The Foreign Office continues dull, and prices show a decline from last week. The principal changes are in Greek, Brazilian, Turkish, and Egyptian, 1 pence. Brazilian Five per Cent., 1865, have been 72½; Egyptian Seven per Cent., 1861, Greek, 13½; Turkish One per Cent., 1862, 67½; Portuguese Three per Cent., 1854; Brazil Four and a Half per Cent., 1850, 86½; Ditto Three per Cents, 53½; Ditto Five per Cents, 1863, 89½; Spanish Two per Cent., Deferred, 26½; Due, 25½; Ditto, Certificates, 16½; Turkish Six per Cent., 1854, 89½ ex div; Ditto, 1853, 65; Ditto, 1862, 67½; Ditto Five per Cent., 35½; Dutch Four per Cent., 94½; French Three per Cents, 67½, 75c; and Venezuela Six per Cents, 1864, 23½ ex div.

In the market for Joint-stock Banks a very moderate business has been transacted. Agra and Maeterlank have sold at 52½; Alliance, 27½; Anglo-Austrian, 6½; Au-Brasian, 70 ex div.; Bank of British Columbia, 21½; Bank of Egypt, 32½; Bank of London, 20½; Bank of Queensland, 19; Bank of New Zealand, 19; Colonial, 4½; Consolidated, 9½; East India, 50; English, 80; Scottish, and Australian, 21½; Imperial Ottoman, 16½; Land Mortgage of Australia, 22½; London and County, 77½; London Joint-stock, 47½; London and South African, 14; London and Westminster, 95½; National Provincial of England, 156; Oriental, 48; South Australian, 35; Union of Ireland, 17½; and Union of London, 52.

Colonial Government Securities have been in limited request. Canada Six per Cent. have been sold at 94½; Ditto Five per Cents, 78½; New South Wales Five per Cent., 91; and Victoria Six per Cent., 103½.

The Miscellaneous Market has been very inactive. Atlantic Telegraph Company's Shares have been realized at 23½; City of London Real Property, 4½; Credit Foncier and Mortier of England, 7½; Ditto, New, 6½; Electric Telegraph, 20; Fire-street Warehouse, 12½; General Credit, 4½; Hudson Bay, 16½; International, 16½; Land Securities, 35; London Financial, 16½; London General Omnibus, 23½; Millwall Freehold Land and Dock, 7½; National Discount, 14½; Overend, Gurney, and Co., 16½; European Gas, 12½; Great Central, 13½; Imperial, 74½; Imperial Continental, 9½; Phoenix, 27; Surrey Concourse, 14½; Westmains' or Chartered, 45½; Chelsea Waterworks, 27; East London, 125½; West Middlesex, 11½; Imperial Life Insurance, 20½; Guardian, 45½; Indemnity Marine, 124½; Liverpool and London and G.B., 20½; Sun Life, 63.

The Railway Share Market is dull, and prices have a drooping tendency.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—The supply of English wheat on sale this week has been very moderate, and somewhat out of condition. Selected samples of both red and white have moved off steadily, at full quotations; but damp parcels have commanded very little attention, at late rates. The show of foreign wheat has not increased. Sales generally have progressed slowly, on former terms. There has been much less activity in the demand for barley, at a decline in the currencies of from 1s. to 2s. per quarter. Malt has moved off heavily, at about stationary prices. We have no chance to notice in the value of oats. Beans however, have given way 1s. per quarter. Peas and flour have ruled about stationary.

ENGLISH.—Wheat, 38s to 55s; barley, 30s to 43s; malt, 5s to 6s; oats, 18s to 30s; rye, 20s to 28s; beans, 40s to 51s; peas, 36s to 42s per quarter; flour, 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per cwt.

CATTLE.—Beef, mutton, and sheep have sold at a considerable advance. Other kinds of stock have been very firm in price. Beef, from 4s. to 5s. 4d.; mutton, 5s. 4d. to 7s. 4d.; lamb, 8s. to 9s.; veal, 6s. to 9s. 6d.; pork, 7s. to 9s. 2d. per cwt. to sink the offal.

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RICE.—Very few transactions have been reported, at late rates. STEA.—The market is inactive, a price about equal to last week.

SUGAR.—Raw qualities are still very dull, at 6d. per cwt. less money. Stock, 77,759 tons, against 84,950 tons last year.

COFFEE.—Full prices have been realized for all kinds, with a steady inquiry. The stock consists of 10,394 tons, against 12,010 tons in 1865.

RICE.—Very few transactions have been reported, at late rates.

PROVISIONS.—The transactions in butter have been on a very moderate scale at late quotations. Waverford bacon is selling at 72s. per cwt. Hams are scarce, and dear as last week; but lard is rather cheap. Other provisions support late rates.

TALLOW.—Pigs' oil is selling at 4s. 10d. per cwt.

OILS.—Linseed oil is quoted at £40 10s. per ton. Rape is selling at from £47 to £52; olive, £51 10s. to £7; cocoanut, £47 10s. to £53 10s.; and fine palm, £43 10s. French turpentine, 47s. to 48s. per cwt.

SPIRITS.—The market for rum is inactive, on former terms. Brandy and grain spirits are steady in value.

HAY AND STRAW.—Meadow hay, £4 4s. to £5 1s.; clover, £5 10s. to £6 10s.; straw, £1 10s. to £2 4s. per load.

COTTON.—Haswell, 19s; Heston, 18s; Hertford, 17s; Hatfield, 17s; Tice, 18s; 3d.; North Staffordshire, 17s. per ton.

HOPS.—The demand for all kinds is quiet, at late rates—viz., from 7s. to 9s. per cwt.

WOOL.—The transactions are on a limited scale, at previous quotations.

POTATOES.—Large supplies are on offer, and the demand is inactive, at from 4s. to 10s. per ton.

NENGEAT AND LEADENHALL.—These markets are well supplied with meat, which moves off steadily, as follows: Beef, from 6s. to 10s. to 10s. 4d.; mutton, 4s. to 5s. 4d.; lamb, 7s. to 8s. 6d.; veal, 4s. 4d. to 5s. 4d.; pork, 4s. to 5s. 4d.; fowls, 1s. by the carcass.

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TALLOW.—Pigs' oil is selling at 4s.

NOTICE.
R E S P E C T I N G P A T T E R N S,
Ladies will greatly assist in facilitating the execution of their
orders (when applying for patterns) by stating the style and
description of Drapes preferred.
PETER ROBINSON'S, Oxford-street and Regent-street.

H O M E and CONTINENTAL SILKS,
Our first delivery
of Spring Novelties,
in rich Spitalfields and Lyons Silks,
has just been received,
embracing an immense variety of perfectly
new Designs and Colourings,
at Prices (owing to our orders having been placed very early)
as moderate as last year.
Patterns free.—PETER ROBINSON, 103, Oxford-street.

I M P E R I A L STRIPE SILKS
the most Fashionable Dress for 1866.
300 Pieces have just been received, and are now being offered
at 3d guineas the Full Dress, 14 yards.
Also, 100 Pieces of
RICH JASPER AND BROOKE STRIPES,
from 4 guineas the Extra Full Dress, 15 yards.
These embrace all the latest novelties of design and colourings ever
shown, and are the fashionable dress for the season. Any length
will be cut to enable ladies to have dress and jacket to match, now
so much worn on the Continent.
Patterns free.—PETER ROBINSON, 104 to 106, Oxford-street.

P L A I N S I L K S.
Great demand is still prevailing for this most fashionable
Dress, in consequence of which we have had produced 300 Pieces of
entirely new colourings in Glace, Foul de Soie, and numerous
makes of Corded Silks (all of which are both sides alike), from 3d
guineas the Full Dress, 14 yards.
Patterns free, and any length cut.
PETER ROBINSON, 104 to 108, Oxford-street.

R I C H S I L K LYONS FOULARDS and LEVANTINES, guaranteed to be of the
finest quality,
from 1d guineas the Full Dress.
Patterns free.—PETER ROBINSON, 104 to 108, Oxford-street.

S P I T A L F I E L D S M O I R E A N T I Q U E,
MADE TO OUR ORDER,
5d guineas the Full Dress of 10 yards.
This is decidedly
the best value ever submitted (35 in. wide).
Patterns free.—PETER ROBINSON, 104 to 108, Oxford-street.

I R I S H P O P P L I N S,
IN NEW STRIPES AND PLAIN COLOURS,
from £2 10s. to 4d guineas the Extra Full Dress.
These are recommended
as the most useful Costume for Spring.
The wear of every piece guaranteed.
Patterns free.—PETER ROBINSON, 104 to 108, Oxford-street.

F O R W E D D I N G C O S T U M E.
FANCY AND PLAIN SILKS,
prepared with the greatest care,
in White and Distinguished Colours,
expressly for this season.
Patterns free.—PETER ROBINSON, 104 to 108, Oxford-street.

ENTIRELY NEW FABRIC FOR DRESSES.

D I A G O N A L S P R I N G S I L K P O P P L I N .
Emphatically adapted for the present and approaching season.
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